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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 1
                       FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND
                             NORTHERN DIVISION
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 3
     UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
               Plaintiff,
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          vs.
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                                           CRIMINAL NO.:
     CHE JARON DURBIN,
                                           1:20-cr-00210-GLR-2
 6
               Defendant.
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 8
                                           Baltimore, Maryland
                                           December 19, 2022
 9
                                           9:30 a.m.
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                         TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
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                             SENTENCING HEARING
              BEFORE THE HONORABLE GEORGE LEVI RUSSELL, III
                                Courtroom 7A
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     For the Plaintiff:
14
          Christopher J. Romano, Esquire
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          Office of the United States Attorney
16
          36 S. Charles Street, 4th Floor
          Baltimore, MD 21201
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     For the Defendant:
19
          Catherine Flynn, Esquire
          Law Office of Catherine Flynn
2.0
          217 North Charles Street
          2nd Floor
21
          Baltimore, MD 21201
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     Also Present:
23
                     Jessica Jackson, Probation Officer
                     Michael Pecukaitis, U.S. Postal Inspector
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          (Computer-aided transcription of stenotype notes)
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PROCEEDINGS
 1
         (9:30 a.m.)
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              THE COURT: You can have a seat everyone. Good
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    morning. Mr. Romano, why don't you call the case for me,
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    please.
              MR. ROMANO: Thank you, Your Honor. Good morning.
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     This is the matter of the United States versus Che Jaron
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    Durbin. Representing the United States is Christopher Romano.
    Also present at counsel table is U.S. Postal Inspector Michael
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    Pecukaitis, and we're here for Mr. Durbin's sentencing on
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    Counts 1, 2 and 3 of the Indictment after he was found quilty
    at trial.
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              THE COURT: Very good. Ms. Flynn, good morning to
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    you.
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              MS. FLYNN: Good morning, Your Honor. I'm Catherine
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    Flynn; I represent Mr. Durbin who is seated to my left.
               THE COURT: Mr. Durbin, good morning to you, sir.
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              THE DEFENDANT: Good morning. How are you doing?
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               THE COURT: Pursuant to the court's masking policies,
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    everyone in the courtroom shall remain masked unless you're
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    engaged in a speaking role and have been fully vaccinated.
    have been fully vaccinated, and I am engaged in a speaking
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    role, so as a result, I'm going to go ahead and remove my
    mask.
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              We are here for the purposes of sentencing. Mr.
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Durbin was convicted on three counts of Conspiracy to
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     Distribute and Possess with Intent to Distribute Cocaine after
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     a jury trial.
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               Mr. Durbin, have you had the opportunity to view the
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     presentence report that was generated in this case?
               THE DEFENDANT:
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               THE COURT: Mr. Durbin, if you could please sit up
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 8
     and speak clearly into the microphone. Have you had the
     opportunity to speak with your attorney about the report?
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               THE DEFENDANT: Briefly.
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               THE COURT: I'm sorry?
               THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I spoke with her briefly about
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     it.
               THE COURT: Do you need more time to speak with her
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     about the report?
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               THE DEFENDANT: I don't believe so.
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               THE COURT: Ms. Flynn, have you had the opportunity
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     to review the report with your client?
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               MS. FLYNN: Yes, Your Honor, and I believe I sent a
     copy to Mr. Durbin. Is that correct?
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               THE DEFENDANT:
                              Yes.
               MS. FLYNN: And we've had two or three visits since
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     then; is that correct?
               THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
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               MS. FLYNN: All right. I just wanted to clarify, we
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have spoken several -- quite a few times since I sent it to you
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     because this sentencing actually originally was scheduled in
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     September, I believe.
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               THE COURT: Right.
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               MS. FLYNN: And we moved it to today's date because I
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     was on a jury. So we've had several visits in between that
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     time; is that correct?
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               THE DEFENDANT:
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               THE COURT: Just to confirm, Mr. Durbin, you don't
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     need any additional time to review the presentence report with
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     your attorney? You're satisfied with your review of it as well
     as your consultation with Ms. Flynn regarding the presentence
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     report; is that correct, sir?
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               THE DEFENDANT: I just have a few, like,
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    misunderstandings on a couple of the points that I received.
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               THE COURT: All right. Let me ask you this.
     received sentencing memoranda from both the Government as well
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     as Ms. Flynn, and I did receive a self-represented defendant's
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     pro se supplement to the sentencing memoranda which you ended
     up filing dated December 7, 2022, ECF No. 200. Is that what
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     you're referring to?
               THE DEFENDANT:
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                               Yes.
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               THE COURT: And within the confines of that document,
     I note that you contest several issues which would include a
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two-level obstruction of justice enhancement because you assert

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that you did not obstruct justice by testifying falsely at
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     trial. Is that correct, sir?
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               THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
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               THE COURT: And do you contest you were an
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     organizer/leader of the organization as well; is that correct?
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               THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I contest that too.
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               THE COURT: Okay. Those two issues are the primary
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     issues regarding the sentencing guidelines; is that correct,
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     sir?
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               THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
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               THE COURT: And then, of course, you cite to a number
     of factors related to your physical condition, your health
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     condition and other factors associated with the 3553(a) factors
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     in order to make an effort to have your sentence reduced; is
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     that correct, sir?
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               THE DEFENDANT:
                              Yes.
               THE COURT: In sum total, I've generalized the
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     contested issues as well as the arguments that you're seeking
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     to make as part of this sentencing; is that correct, sir?
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               THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
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               THE COURT: Ms. Flynn, I know that you've reviewed
    his supplemental sentencing memoranda and I have reviewed yours
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     as well. Are there any -- do you believe that the Court has
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     adequately summarized the defendant's contested issues related
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     to this case and the arguments he is making regarding his
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sentence?
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               MS. FLYNN: Yes, Your Honor.
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               THE COURT: Very well. Mr. Romano, I know you've
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     reviewed the sentencing memoranda as well. Has the Court sort
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     of generally captured the arguments that the defendant has
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     made?
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               MR. ROMANO: Your Honor, I believe that's
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     correct although there may be an issue with regard to drug
     quantity because that does affect the base offense level. I
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     addressed that in my sentencing memo, and I'll be happy to
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     speak at the appropriate time about that as well.
               THE COURT: Okay, very well.
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               MR. ROMANO: Otherwise, yes, the Court fairly
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     summarized both Ms. Flynn's argument and the pro se arguments
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     that the defendant filed as well. For the record, I did remove
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     my mask; I have been fully vaccinated and boosted.
               THE COURT: Thank you. So I think the way we're
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     going to handle this is we're going to first start out with
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     the -- what the appropriate guidelines are in the case
     according to the presentence report because those may be
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     contested. Counts 1, 2 and 3 are grouped, and pursuant to
     3D1.1, Group 1, conspiracy and possession with intent to
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     distribute cocaine, the base offense level is 30 due to the
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     amount and type of narcotics involved. I believe the issues
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were that he was charged with distribution of 5,000 grams of

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cocaine as to Count 1 and then 500 grams of cocaine as to Counts 2 and 3.

I'll certainly hear from the Government with regard to the quantities indicated and to determine whether or not the base offense level is appropriately 30.

MR. ROMANO: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: It's at least five kilograms of cocaine associated with the defendant.

Then I'll hear from Ms. Flynn, and then we'll move to each individual enhancement as well.

MR. ROMANO: Your Honor, the Government's position is that the base offense level with regard to Count 1 is at least five kilograms of cocaine which would be a base offense level of 30. As the Court is familiar because you presided over the trial, you heard testimony from a cooperating co-defendant, Jameka Thompson, who testified that based on her multiple trips between Tucson, Arizona and Harford County, Maryland, that she transported upwards of 40 kilograms of cocaine.

Her testimony in large part was corroborated not just by the quantity of drugs that were seized from her which was over a kilo on the last stop, but as Your Honor will recall, there were both airline records, hotel records, and rental car records that showed a series of her trips from flying out from Baltimore to Tucson and getting a rental car and driving back where she indicated in her testimony that she was transporting

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cocaine. She used both her credit card as well as the defendant's credit card to rent those rental cars. We produced those records which showed over 2,000 miles on each one of the trips. And clearly she was not out there just for the weather. She was out there to transport cocaine back.

In addition to her testimony and her acknowledgment at the time that she appeared before Your Honor and pled guilty that she was involved in a conspiracy of over five kilograms, Your Honor also heard the guilty plea of Mr. Durbin's source of supply, Jack Anderson, who likewise accepted responsibility and indicated that his role in the conspiracy was in excess of five kilograms of cocaine.

Also as Your Honor will recall from the testimony -and the postal inspector is here as well -- the U.S. Postal
Inspection Service seized \$82,300 in currency, an amount that
the evidence showed was sufficient to pay for at least
four kilograms of cocaine. All of that coupled with the one
kilogram of cocaine that was seized in 2019 from the
defendant's mother's residence, addressed to a company that the
defendant had formed and was the majority stockholder, TRU
Homes LLC, along with the excess of a kilogram that was seized
from Jameka Thompson in 2020, that there were at least five
kilograms of cocaine involved in the conspiracy.

Now the jury's verdict form indicated as to Count 1 that there was at least 500 grams or more of cocaine. The

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Court is not bound by that finding by the jury. More than 25 years ago, as the Supreme Court pointed out in *United States v. Watts*, a case that I cited in my sentencing memo, that even a jury's verdict of acquittal -- and we don't have an acquittal here; we have a finding by a jury of a drug quantity but we don't have an acquittal. But even a finding of acquittal, the Supreme Court said does not prevent the sentencing court from considering conduct that was involved in the charge as long as the Court is satisfied by a preponderance of the evidence that there was an amount in this case of five kilograms or more.

The Supreme Court in the Watts case relied upon the statutory section of Title 18 §3661 which states that no limitation shall be placed on the information concerning the background, the character, or the conduct of the person convicted of an offense for which the Court may receive and consider for purposes of imposing the appropriate sentence; and indeed that's echoed in the sentencing guidelines under §1B1.4 which says that the Court in determining the sentence to impose within the guideline range or whether a departure is warranted, that the Court may consider with that limitation any information concerning the defendant's conduct unless otherwise prohibited by law. The Supreme Court has made clear that it's not prohibited by law.

And indeed I'm not going to belabor the point further, but I cited in my sentencing memo cases from the

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Fourth Circuit, *U.S. v. Ibanaga* and *United States v. Hayes*, for that very principle that the standard of proof here is by preponderance of evidence in order for the Court to find that the amount of cocaine involved in this conspiracy was five kilograms or more.

Accordingly, I'm asking the Court to make a determination that the base offense level would be a base offense level of 30, reflecting at least five kilograms of cocaine.

As far as Counts 2 and 3, he was only charged in those counts with 500 grams or more, as Your Honor obviously recalls at the time that both of those drugs were seized in 2019 and 2020. In the one case it was a kilogram, and in the 2020 case when Jameka Thompson was arrested after the defendant had gotten out from Tucson, had returned home, and she drove back a couple days later, it was roughly 1.2 kilograms of cocaine that were seized in connection with that. And that forms the basis for Counts 2 and 3. But for Count 1, the Government's position is that the overall arching conspiracy reflected five kilograms or more which would be a base offense level of 30.

So that's where we would start, and I'll address the other issues once Ms. Flynn addresses this particular one. Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you very much. Ms. Flynn, I'll be

more than happy to hear from you. 1 MS. FLYNN: Thank you, Your Honor. 2 I gather, Your Honor, I should identify for the 3 record that I have been fully vaccinated, and I've taken off my 4 5 mask for purposes of addressing the Court. THE COURT: Thank you. 6 MS. FLYNN: Your Honor, we're asking the Court to 7 8 consider the base offense level to be 24 which I believe accurately reflects the verdict from the jury. Basically what 9 10 the Government is asking you to do is to ignore the fact that 11 the jury had the opportunity to convict Mr. Durbin of the quantity that the Government was identifying and they chose not 12 to. All of the evidence that was presented regarding the 13 quantity was speculative. Let's start with Ms. Thompson's 14 testimony. 1.5 16 She speculated, she was estimating the quantity that she believed she was responsible for. She didn't identify that 17 18 "On every given trip this is how much I picked up, this is how much money was involved." She didn't testify with specificity 19 as to how she reached that number. 2.0 So the Government is asking Your Honor to basically 21 ignore the jury's verdict and go down that path of speculation 2.2

So the Government is asking Your Honor to basically ignore the jury's verdict and go down that path of speculation of what Mr. Durbin may or may not have been responsible for.

There was not any objective evidence, any tangible evidence of the specific quantity here which I suspect is why the jury

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rendered the verdict that they did.

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So while I understand that the Court is allowed to basically ignore the jury's verdict and their deliberation and find by a preponderance of the evidence, in spite of the jury's verdict, of certain quantity in this particular case, the evidence that supports that argument is pure speculation. So the jury had the option of convicting him of more than five kilograms; they chose not to. They convicted him of possession with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine, and I believe that the proper designation of the base offense level under those circumstances would be a 24.

So when the Government is arguing that you can take into account Mr. Durbin's conduct, that was conduct that would have been testified to by a cooperating co-conspirator who received a significant benefit as a result of her testimony, and the Government is also asking you to rely on a plea agreement for a co-defendant who did not testify. So we had no opportunity to challenge the conclusions that were in the statement of facts that he was asked to plead to. So I don't think it's appropriate for the Court to take into account Mr. Anderson's plea agreement given the fact that there was no opportunity to challenge that.

We did have an opportunity to challenge

Ms. Thompson's testimony and point out to the jury that she was

not a reliable witness, and I can only speculate that that's

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why the jury reached the conclusion that they did. While I understand the Court is allowed to ignore the conclusion of the jury, I don't believe under these circumstances that would be appropriate. In addition, obviously the Court did have an opportunity to hear from Mr. Durbin, and the link between Ms. Thompson's alleged activities and Mr. Durbin were basically solely based on her testimony, and she received a significant sentencing reduction as a result of that.

So it is our position that the proper base offense level is a 24.

THE COURT: Thank you. Any reply from you, Mr. Romano?

MR. ROMANO: Just briefly, Your Honor. We still have the \$82,300 which there was testimony from the Government's witnesses, law enforcement officers, that that was back in that time when that money was seized from the mailing by Mr. Durbin to Jack Anderson out in Arizona, that that was basically the going rate for four kilos of cocaine. So it's not, with all due respect to Ms. Flynn, it's not speculation. She's speculating as to why the jury returned the verdict that it did.

But we're not asking the Court to speculate. We're asking the Court to look at the case in totality. Also the Court, just like we say to the jury, can rely on its own common sense that Mr. Durbin, who flew out multiple times to Arizona,

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and Ms. Thompson, who flew out to Arizona and then drove back, wouldn't be driving back for an ounce, two ounces of cocaine. That just defies credibility in terms of what was going on here.

So we have her testimony. In addition, we have the multiple trips by her, as well as we have the airline records and car rental records from Mr. Durbin going out there that clearly show that there was an ongoing and a significant, a significant effort to obtain cocaine to bring it back here to Maryland. So we have all that coupled with the money that I think the Court can very well find by a preponderance of evidence that it's not 500 grams. I can speculate as to why the jury came back with 500 grams because they saw one kilogram and then they saw another kilogram. They saw the one that was concealed in that doll and then the other one.

So if I want to engage in the same type of speculation as Ms. Flynn, the jury could very well have said, okay, maybe they don't understand that for the conspiracy, it's not just the drugs that were actually seized but what the entire underlying conspiracy was involved in and what the effort was. But we don't need to speculate and we're not asking the Court to speculate.

We're asking the Court to look at the evidence in total, apply a preponderance of evidence, utilizing that evidence as well as a finding by the Court with regard to just

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common sense that you don't make those 2,000-mile trips back multiple times. We're not talking about one time, we're not talking about two times. The records show multiple trips to establish that the object of this conspiracy was at least five kilograms. Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you very much.

regarding the amount and type of narcotics involved in a drug conspiracy subsequent to the defendant's conviction despite the jury verdict that they did indeed check the box under 500 grams or more of cocaine. The Court is convinced by a preponderance of the evidence that the appropriate offense level is base offense level of 30 pursuant to 2D1.1(a)(5) and (c)(5).

The collective evidence put forth at trial demonstrates that as a result of seizures, transportation records, credit card receipts, co-conspirator testimony, as well as cash seized, that the defendant was involved in, at the very least, five kilograms of cocaine and a conspiracy to manufacture, import or possess with intent to distribute cocaine in that particular quantity. As a result, I will go ahead and find that the base offense level is 30.

It appears that the next contested issue is whether or not the defendant was an organizer or leader. Mr. Romano, if you'd like, I certainly can hear from you on that, but I think your sentencing memoranda outlines that as well, but I'll

be more than happy to hear from you.

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MR. ROMANO: Thank you, Your Honor, just briefly.

The Government is requesting a four-level increase pursuant to \$3B1.1(a) that the defendant was an organizer or leader. The members of the conspiracy included, but weren't limited to, the defendant; Jack Anderson; Jameka Thompson; Terrell Walton, the co-defendant who went to trial; Gerrick Jackson, who the wiretap calls between Mr. Durbin and Mr. Jackson showed multiple, multiple contacts with Mr. Jackson ordering quantities of cocaine and crack cocaine. There were all these references to scale and half time and all of that which weren't for personal use. They were for resale, given the amounts requested, the frequency with the amounts requested. So he was clearly part and parcel of the conspiracy. So there's five people right there.

Then we have the other individuals that Mr. Durbin was supplying, some of which was for personal use, some of which was for resale. So it's clear that he was an organizer or leader. He sent Jameka Thompson out there to Tucson to obtain the cocaine and bring it back here so that it could be resold.

In summary, the Government believes that the defendant was, in fact, an organizer, a leader and a resupplier, if you will, of the cocaine, and for those reasons, the four-level increase is warranted.

THE COURT: On top of that, he sent the package to his mother's address. I don't know whether or not she was involved in the circumstance, but his mother's address was the delivery destination for, I believe, the money.

MR. ROMANO: Actually the mother's address was used in two capacities. One, the Court will recall he was hanging outside waiting for the postal guy to show up, and when the postal guy -- he actually almost ran to him to get that package and bring it into mom's apartment there in Aberdeen; it was addressed to TRU Homes, not to his mother.

THE COURT: Right.

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MR. ROMANO: And, you know, I would hope that he wouldn't intentionally make his mother part of the conspiracy, but certainly he used that address to facilitate that. And then the money was actually mailed from him using, in this case, his actual name and if you remember, the drugs when they came out, Jack Anderson sent them in a fake name but about two doors down from his house. But when it came time for the money, like a Jerry Maguire, "show me the money," they mailed it to Jack Anderson, using Jack Anderson's real name and real address. Of course, notwithstanding both of those things had gotten intercepted by the Postal Inspection Service so it never made it to Jack Anderson.

But, yes, it just goes to show the lengths at which he went to try and obtain the cocaine. Once it got here, the

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distribution levels through Terrell Walton and Gerrick Jackson
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     and others. So I think there's ample, ample evidence to
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     support the four-level increase for the role in the offense.
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     Thank you.
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               THE COURT: Thank you. Ms. Flynn, I'll hear from you
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     if you'd like.
               MS. FLYNN: Your Honor, frankly, my argument is going
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     to dovetail with the anticipated Government's request for the
     two-level increase for obstruction of justice because I'm
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     relying on Mr. Durbin's testimony in making my argument.
               THE COURT: Understood.
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               MS. FLYNN: The two go hand in hand.
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               THE COURT: And then I'll just give Mr. Romano a
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     brief opportunity to reply to both, and then I'll rule on
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    both.
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               MS. FLYNN:
                           All right. Your Honor, we would object
     to -- I'm jumping forward. We would object to the four-level
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     enhancement for the role in the offense as well as the
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     two-level enhancement for the allegation of obstruction of
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     justice. Your Honor heard obviously the entire trial.
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     heard Mr. Durbin's testimony. He explained that he was not
     involved in this conspiracy, that he was involved in selling
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     marijuana and that he was involved in the illegal sale of
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     vehicles, getting them from the Southwest, that the vehicles
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     were sold across the border; that when they raided his house,
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there was documentation of false vehicle titles, all sorts of documentation that indicated that there was this, I guess, illegal sale of car activity.

He testified that that's what he was involved with; that the activities of Jameka Thompson and Jack Anderson, while Mr. Durbin had introduced them, he didn't have anything to do with the ongoing activities that those people were involved with and that his phone calls and the connections to these other alleged co-conspirators, he indicated that he was selling marijuana, not cocaine. So he denies the allegations in this case and he denies that his testimony was untruthful.

THE COURT: Right, okay.

MS. FLYNN: So I would object to both enhancements.

THE COURT: Very good. Mr. Romano, I'll hear from you if you like.

MR. ROMANO: Thank you, Your Honor. Your Honor, the Government is seeking under sentencing guideline §3C1.1 a two-level enhancement for obstruction. That section under 3C1.1 provides that if a defendant willfully obstructed, impeded or attempted to obstruct or impede the administration of justice with respect to an investigation, prosecution or sentencing, then the Court may very well include a two-level enhancement for obstruction.

While the Government understands the defendant has a constitutional right to testify in his defense, he doesn't have

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a constitutional right to "test-i-lie" and that's what he did here. He took the stand and said, "I'm not trafficking in cocaine; I'm trafficking in marijuana." No evidence of marijuana, no evidence of marijuana being seized. What came to Mom's house wasn't marijuana; it was cocaine. What Jameka Thompson brought back -- and let's again look at that scenario in May of 2020.

He flies out there, she flies out there. We see them
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He flies out there, she flies out there. We see them both on the surveillance. She's meeting with Jack Anderson. He's picking her up at the airport and bringing her to Jack Anderson. She starts to leave in one vehicle, comes back, meets again with Jack Anderson, obtains more cocaine and drives back. The defendant says, "Well, that was between Jack Anderson and Jameka Thompson." Jameka Thompson had no record until --

THE COURT: She had a job, she had a place. She had a family to support.

MR. ROMANO: Right. She got kicked off a post.

THE COURT: She lost everything.

MR. ROMANO: She did and the reason she did was -- if you'll recall too she was even, after she was arrested and she was in Harford County -- and this kind of goes towards the sentencing issues that I'll touch on in a minute -- she's told not to have contact with him. She's already out, they released her, and she's still calling him while he's locked up in the

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Harford County Detention Center. So she gets yanked back in the detention center because she's in violation of her pretrial conditions. Even when she's in there, she's still trying to call him. Why? Because, as she said, she loved him.

THE COURT: There was this whole scheme to get married.

MR. ROMANO: Oh, yeah. They were going to get married. For reasons we don't need to go into, that didn't happen. But the defendant used her. He used her to facilitate his drug business. Whether he really had feelings for her or not doesn't matter. What he did do is he involved a woman who had no prior criminal record to do his dirty work.

As Your Honor indicated, she lost everything. She had a master's degree. In fact, Ms. Flynn was trying to cross-examine her that she was the brains behind the outfit here because she had the master's degree, and she was the one with Jack Anderson that was doing all of this. And the defendant, "Oh, okay, yeah, I was selling some stolen cars." But that's not the basis to say that his testimony doesn't result in an obstruction enhancement.

Indeed, the Supreme Court in the *United States v*.

Dunnigan stated that the defendant can't contend in the sentencing that because perjury interferes with the right to testify, that we shouldn't apply that if the facts are such that that testimony is, as I said, really "test-i-lie."

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There's a case that's exactly on point that I cited in my sentencing memorandum, United States v. Perez, where in that case the obstruction of justice enhancement was affirmed, affirmed for a defendant who falsely testified under oath that he wasn't involved in cocaine trafficking. That testimony directly is contradicted by not only just a Government's witness that the jury found credible, regardless of what we're talking about in terms of drug quantity, but the jury obviously found that testimony credible. And the Court in Perez found, as this Court should, that that false testimony concerned a material matter, namely the guilt or innocence of the defendant. His false testimony that he wasn't involved in a cocaine conspiracy or the money that he was sending to the source of supply were not drug proceeds were absolutely material to the guilt or innocence.

And it was done willfully. It wasn't by accident.

It wasn't by mistake. In fact, he got on the stand and said,

"I wouldn't get involved in cocaine this time because I already
got banged on that once, so I know what I was looking at there.

So that's why I was only selling marijuana."

Now did we see a single ounce, much less a single gram of marijuana recovered from Jameka Thompson, from Mom's house, from the package, from the searches that were done at the defendant's house where we got the stolen car titles or whatever they were? No. Now the fact that he may have been

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involved in other criminal activity is hardly shocking or surprising so if he's involved in a stolen car ring, fine. So what? That wasn't why he was flying out to Arizona. Jameka Thompson wasn't driving stolen cars back and forth. She was driving cocaine back so it could be resold.

He clearly testified intentionally, willfully and falsely as to material matters, and for those reasons, the obstruction enhancement should apply as well. Thank you.

THE COURT: All right. Pending before the Court are two requests or two objections to the presentence report, namely that the defendant was an organizer/leader pursuant to 3B1.1(a), as well as the defendant obstructed justice by testifying falsely about his narcotics distribution activities, namely that he was distributing marijuana and also engaged in the transportation and distribution of stolen vehicles.

The Court does find by a preponderance of the evidence the defendant was clearly an organizer/leader. He manipulated others within the criminal conspiracy. The evidence demonstrated that he was certainly in charge of the location of where the narcotics would be distributed to.

Ms. Thompson testified credibly that she was directed by the defendant. Again, credit card records and other financial documents indicate that he was an organizer/leader.

Further, the defendant's own testimony this Court finds by a preponderance of the evidence was false. There was

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no indication, as pointed out by the Government, of the seizure of any marijuana. In fact, the circumstances regarding this particular conspiracy and the evidence against the defendant supports that he was indeed engaged in the cocaine distribution activities.

So there's just no question based upon the evidence as a whole -- and in fact, the jury disbelieved the defendant -- that he was an organizer/leader, and of course he testified falsely because the credible evidence in this case pointed to him distributing cocaine and being involved in the drug conspiracy. As a result, both enhancements will end up applying; that will raise his base offense level to 36.

I'll ask Ms. Flynn, those were the -- those were the objections that were addressed by the defendant? In other words, he does not address or object to any term or condition of supervised release, fine, et cetera, as indicated in the presentence report; is that correct?

MS. FLYNN: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Looking at the defendant's criminal history, he's accumulated a total of 12 criminal history category points. He was on probation at the time that he committed the present criminal offense. Among those previous criminal convictions is a previous federal conviction for cocaine base in which he received a reduced sentence of 20 months. As a result, he has 14 criminal history category

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points. He is well within the Roman numeral VI category.
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     puts him -- with the grouping, it puts him at an offense level
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     36, criminal history category VI, with a guideline range of
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     between 324 and 405 months.
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               There is a minimum mandatory sentence that comes
     along with these convictions on all three counts of five years;
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     a supervised release range as to Count 1 and 2 and 3 of between
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     four and five years; a fine range of between 40,000 and $5
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     million; and a special assessment of $300, $100 for each count
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     of conviction.
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               Mr. Romano, is that an accurate characterization of
     the sentencing guideline range?
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               MR. ROMANO: Yes, it is, Your Honor.
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               THE COURT: Ms. Flynn, understanding and noting
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     Mr. Durbin's objections to the Court's finding, that is an
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     accurate characterization of the Court's finding of the
     quideline range?
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               MS. FLYNN: Yes, Your Honor.
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         (Conference at the bench.)
         (It is the policy of this court that every guilty plea and
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     sentencing proceeding include a bench conference concerning
     whether the defendant is or is not cooperating.)
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               THE COURT: All right. Mr. Romano, I'd be more than
     happy to hear from you regarding sentencing.
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               MR. ROMANO: Thank you, Your Honor. As we all know,
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the advisory guideline range is but one factor that the Court is to consider in fashioning the appropriate sentence.

Title 18, § 3553(a) sets forth the factors that the courts are to consider, including the nature and circumstances of the offense, the history of the defendant, the need for the sentence to be imposed to reflect the seriousness of the offense, to promote respect for the law, and to provide just punishment as well as to afford an adequate deterrent to the defendant and, significantly here as well, to protect the public from further crimes of the defendant.

The Court is familiar with the entire case and indeed, as I mentioned before, Mr. Durbin not only involved himself but involved Jameka Thompson, an individual who had no prior criminal involvement and criminal history until her unfortunate association with Mr. Durbin.

As the report reflects, Mr. Durbin has four prior felony convictions. The Court has touched upon one of those which is a federal conviction for which he had initially received 140 months, later reduced to 120 months. There were repeated violations of conditions of that supervised release which resulted in an additional cumulative total of three years' incarceration for those violations.

It's pretty clear that Mr. Durbin has shown and remains undeterred when it comes to drug trafficking. He has no real credible argument that he's not a recidivist drug

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dealer. And the Court needs to impose a sentence, if not to deter Mr. Durbin from further criminal conduct, but at a minimum to protect the public from Mr. Durbin's criminal activities.

I'm reminded of a quote from Winston Churchill who said: The most exhilarating feeling in the world is being shot at and missed. Initially Mr. Durbin was shot at and hit when he got that federal conviction, but it didn't deter him. He was, in essence, shot at and missed when in 2019 that package of cocaine was sent to his mother's house. It was seized; he wasn't prosecuted for that. You would think that, giving credit to his testimony on the witness stand, that he knew what kind of sentence he could be facing given that he had previously been convicted of cocaine. It didn't draw him up short because he got that package in 2019. And even after that when he knew that he was being looked at because they seized those drugs, he continued. He continued to deal in cocaine.

"Well, I can't have it mailed to me because I see what happened there, so plan B, send Jameka out to Tucson and we'll just drive the drugs back. We'll just drive them back." Money up to that point hadn't been a problem so, "I'll mail the money out, but I'm not going to mail drugs back to me because that had already been picked off." The only thing that did when that first package in 2019 was seized, it didn't stop him; it just changed up the MO. How is he going to get the drugs

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back to Maryland, and how is he going to get the money back out to Jack Anderson? So it didn't stop him.

In every sense of the word, Che Durbin is a career offender. He has four prior felony drug convictions. He has now facing him a sentence for a fifth and what amounts to his second federal drug conviction. He hasn't been deterred. Quite frankly, I don't know that there's anything that will deter. So we then have to look at how do we protect the public? How do we promote respect for the law? Two important considerations under Title 18, 3553(a).

In my sentencing memorandum, I asked the Court to consider a sentence that's higher than what I'm actually going to recommend now. I will say this -- and as the Court knows and I'm sure is going to hear from Ms. Flynn, perhaps members in the courtroom and perhaps even Mr. Durbin himself, he did sustain a serious injury. There's no question about that. At the hands of his co-defendant, an extremely violent individual.

THE COURT: That's cost him -- Mr. Durbin's recidivist behavior has cost him more than just time away from his family and behind bars. It's now costing him his eye.

That's another cost of this is that he's missing an eye because he decided he didn't learn from the previous drug convictions and wanted to continue to engage in this behavior. He's ruined Ms. Thompson's life. He's now lost an eye and regardless of

what happens is going to be spending a significant amount of time in the Bureau of Prisons.

MR. ROMANO: Correct. In that regard, it's -- I don't want to have the Court take this the wrong way, but I think the Court understands -- but for his activities, he wouldn't have placed himself in the position at least the way he lost his eye.

THE COURT: Absolutely.

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MR. ROMANO: He could have lost his life, quite frankly, the way he was operating out on the street. But the fact that he did sustain a serious injury at the hands of his co-defendant, quite frankly, tempers my recommendation. As I indicated, initially I was going to recommend 325 months which is about 27 and a half years. But I do think a substantial sentence needs to be imposed. I'm going to ask the Court to consider a sentence at least 20 years or 240 months. That's double what he got the last time. Clearly the last time, even coupled with the reduction from 140 down to 120 and then three years on top of that that he got for the violation of supervised release, didn't slow him down, didn't deter him. So the Court needs to consider all of that when it reflects on what's the appropriate sentence that's sufficient but not greater than necessary.

The guideline range, 325 to 400-some months, given his personal circumstances, which I think the Court also needs

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to take into consideration from the physical standpoint, I think warrants a reduction in what the Government was seeking and call it lenity, call it whatever, I believe that a sentence of 240 months or 20 years is the appropriate sentence given his prior multiple felony drug convictions, his repeated violations of both state probation and federal supervised release, and the fact that he continues and continues and continues to deal in drugs which the Court knows not only ruined people's lives but, in fact, can cost people their lives.

So for all those reasons, Your Honor, I would respectfully ask the Court to consider a sentence of at least 20 years. Thank you.

THE COURT: Thank you very much. Ms. Flynn, I'll be more than happy to hear from you.

MS. FLYNN: Thank you, Your Honor. I know the Court is well aware of my client's medical issues. He had two -- well, three significant medical problems while he was incarcerated. First, he was diagnosed with COVID and that was prior to getting vaccinated, and he now permanently suffers from hypertension as a result of that. He was diagnosed with COVID on November 30, 2021. He was locked up on May 12, 2020 in Harford County, so he's been continuously incarcerated since that date.

THE COURT: No objection to credit since May 12 of 2020?

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MR. ROMANO: No, sir.
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               THE COURT: All right.
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                           Then on May 15, 2021, he tore his
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               MS. FLYNN:
     Achilles tendon while at CDF. It's not just that he suffered
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     this injury; it was the lack of proper medical care that
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     exacerbated the problem. I had to file two motions with the
     court to get the proper medical care for Mr. Durbin. I had to
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     file a motion in June asking for an MRI which had been
     recommended but the jail wasn't accommodating, and then a
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     further motion was filed in November for follow-up treatment.
     So it's not just the injury, but it's the way somebody is
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     treated when they're at CDF. And it's my understanding,
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     speaking to Dr. Berger who's the surgeon for the Achilles
     tendon, that the delay in treatment, the delay in getting
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     proper medical care exacerbated the problem.
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               I'm not sure if the Court remembers this, but when we
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     were in trial, Mr. Durbin was coming in but he had a boot on.
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               THE COURT: Right.
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               MS. FLYNN: And it's my understanding that as a
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     result of that, an infection developed and that was probably in
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     February or March, and then he suffered from that infection for
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     months.
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               Ultimately what ended up happening, he was stabbed on
     April 11, 2022, stabbed in the eye. He indicates to me that
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     there was a delay in calling the ambulance, there was a delay
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in getting to the hospital. And he was at the hospital at MTC for a while after he was released from the University of Maryland, but it was torture trying to get the proper medical treatment from outside eye experts.

What ended up happening is that Dr. Berger, who was

What ended up happening is that Dr. Berger, who was the doctor for his Achilles tendon, had to delay access to handle what he needed to handle for Mr. Durbin because of the eye surgery and the schedule there. So he had to take a back seat to the schedule of the eye surgeons. I think there were two surgeons who had to perform the surgery on Mr. Durbin. And that, I think, was in September; is that correct, sir?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

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MS. FLYNN: So the injury was in April and he didn't get surgery until September. And then there were five follow-up appointments, and Dr. Berger said to me, I can't do anything until after all of that has been completed. So the infection had been festering for months. What Dr. Berger indicated is he's going to have to have another surgery because of all these delays.

So ultimately I am going to be asking the Court to recommend to the Bureau of Prisons that he be sent to -- I think it's Butner, North Carolina?

THE COURT: Butner, right.

MS. FLYNN: Which it's my understanding they have medical facilities.

THE COURT: Absolutely. It's probably the best 1 medical facility that the Bureau of Prisons has so 2 definitely --3 MS. FLYNN: So that is going to be a request because 4 5 there is ongoing treatment and intervention that's going to be 6 necessary. Hopefully, there will come a point where whatever intervention is necessary when it's over and they can get him 7 to the best place they can and that he get that and be 8 transferred to another facility. I don't know that it's going 9 10 to be a chronic problem. It's just that there are problems that have to be addressed, and the delay because of his 11 incarceration have made things much, much worse than they would 12 have been for somebody who was not incarcerated at the time of 13 the injuries. 14 So while I understand the Government and the Court 1.5 have indicated but for his activities, he wouldn't have been 16 locked up where he got these injuries, that still doesn't mean 17 he should be entitled to subpar medical treatment. 18 THE COURT: I 100 percent agree. And as I'm certain 19 you're aware, and the Government is aware and the Marshal 2.0 21 Service and everyone, this circumstance related to COVID threw everything completely upside down. 2.2 23 MS. FLYNN: I know.

THE COURT: And it got to a point where even after the vaccine became available, there were some people that

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weren't taking it, you were still getting it even though you
were vaccinated. There was a high risk of contracting this
virus. And that basically backed up not only the courts but
backed up the medical services provided to inmates, backed up
just general elective services that everyday folks were getting
before the pandemic. But I agree with you and your point is
well taken that although the circumstances that gave rise to
him being incarcerated aren't necessarily on the government,
nevertheless the treatment after he is incarcerated, there is
some responsibility and accountability on the government's
part, so I hear you.
                     Thank you. Before I finish, I know one
         MS. FLYNN:
member that's in the audience of my client's family would like
to address the Court.
         THE COURT: Sure. Who is that?
         MS. FLYNN: Ms. Tracy Durbin.
          THE COURT: Ms. Durbin, why don't you come forward.
You can come here through the double doors. Ms. Flynn, if you
could direct her to the podium. Ms. Durbin, if you have been
fully vaccinated, you may remove your mask when speaking.
         MS. MURRAY:
                      I'm Tracy Murray. I'm vaxxed and
boosted.
          THE COURT: Fantastic. If you could, please state
and spell your full name for the record.
         MS. MURRAY: Tracy Murray, T-r-a-c-y M-u-r-r-a-y.
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THE COURT: All right, Ms. Murray, I'll be more than 1 happy to hear from you. 2 MS. FLYNN: Before you start, I just want the Court 3 to have some context. Mr. Durbin was very, very lucky to have 4 5 Ms. Murray as his advocate for his healthcare issues. THE COURT: Good. 6 MS. FLYNN: I think but for Ms. Murray, we might 7 8 never have been able to get the proper care because she is in the healthcare industry, and she was very, very aggressive in 9 10 her advocacy on behalf of Mr. Durbin to get the proper medical 11 So I just want the Court to be aware of that. THE COURT: Ms. Murray, thank you very much for your 12 You didn't have to do it. You're in this business 13 but I appreciate your efforts. 14 MS. MURRAY: I am Mr. Durbin's girlfriend. I've been 1.5 16 his girlfriend for 14 years. I am a registered nurse, I have my bachelor's degree. I just want to reiterate what Ms. Flynn 17 said about the medical treatment that he received. First he 18 19 caught COVID. Subsequently, now he has hypertension which he did not have. He lost his eye for them not calling 911 when he 2.0 needed; he sat there and bled out for over an hour which 21 subsequently caused him to be blind. 2.2 23 THE COURT: It initially started when he was stabbed in the eye by his co-defendant. 24

MS. FLYNN: Yes, that is correct, while he was on the

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telephone with me. He sat there for over an hour waiting for medical treatment. He did not get medical treatment then.

The leg issue, it happened maybe in May. Sent letters, called, had to speak with Ms. Flynn in order to get the proper treatment that he needed then. Subsequently it got infected. He could also lose his leg at this point because he has to have another surgery because of that.

As you said, if he weren't here, this probably would have never happened, but that does not mean that he does not deserve the treatment that he should have gotten. He just didn't deserve none of that.

THE COURT: I understand. I want to again thank you for your strength and advocacy for Mr. Durbin, your dedication to being a healer and coordinating efforts with Ms. Flynn, who is one of our outstanding Criminal Justice Act panel attorneys, to be able to do everything you can to advocate for him. So thank you.

MS. MURRAY: No problem. You're welcome.

MS. FLYNN: Thank you, Your Honor. Here in the courtroom I just want to point out in addition to Ms. Murray are her three daughters who Mr. Durbin helped raise, as well as my client's father, cousin, and brother-in-law.

THE COURT: Okay, thank you very much. I'm sorry you're here under these very difficult circumstances.

MS. FLYNN: So he does have a lot of support in the

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community. One other thing, it is my recollection that after
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     my client was stabbed by Mr. Walton, I let Mr. Romano know that
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     that happened. The jail didn't even let the Government know
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     that that had happened. And Mr. Romano was in a position of
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     scrambling to try and backtrack and get the information.
               I think by the time he was made aware of it -- he can
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     correct me if I am wrong -- whatever video there was was not
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     secured, and therefore Mr. Walton was not, in my opinion,
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     properly -- I don't know that the case was properly
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     investigated for purposes of prosecution. I think there was
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     video, and it was not secured and stored.
               THE COURT: I believe it was also an issue of
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     Mr. Durbin not being cooperative as well.
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               MS. FLYNN: I understand that.
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               THE COURT: So Mr. Durbin knows who stabbed him, and
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     he chose not to assist in the investigation and prosecution of
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     a person who took his eye.
               MS. FLYNN: Your Honor, I understand that.
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               THE COURT: So that's on him.
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               MS. FLYNN: But it's also objectively the -- if
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     there's video and a crime occurs, I think it's incumbent upon
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     the law enforcement community to secure that video.
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               THE COURT: Right. And also Mr. Durbin testifying
     and corroborating his co-defendant doing what he did goes a
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long way to securing a conviction.

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MS. FLYNN: I understand. 1 THE COURT: Understood. 2 MS. FLYNN: Just factually speaking, I was surprised 3 when I contacted Mr. Romano and he was unaware of it. 4 THE COURT: Sure. 5 MS. FLYNN: Frankly, I don't know what all the rules 6 of this kind of process are, but Mr. Romano was certainly 7 8 advised very quickly when Ms. Thompson was trying to marry my client. He was the one who told me about that. But 9 10 unfortunately, I was the one who had to inform him about the 11 I just want the Court to be aware that these things can be complicated. 12 I'm asking Your Honor to consider a sentence of 15 13 years which is 180 months given the significant cost to 14 1.5 Mr. Durbin's health as a result of his incarceration. 16 understanding is Mr. Walton received 13 years, if I'm not mistaken, and it is my understanding that part of that included 17 his conduct that -- as alleged in being the perpetrator against 18 Mr. Durbin. So it's my understanding, while I wasn't present 19 for the entire sentencing, that the Court was taking into 2.0 account Mr. Walton's role in what happened to Mr. Durbin in 21 fashioning a sentence under the circumstances in his case. 2.2 I understand the verdicts and the counts were 23 different for Mr. Walton, and obviously I can't speak to his 24

criminal history. But as far as Mr. Durbin is concerned, I'm

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asking Your Honor to consider a sentence of 180 months under
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     all of the circumstances.
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               Now, Mr. Durbin, you have a right of allocation in
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     this case. You can address the Court if there's something that
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     has not been addressed, or you can remain silent. That's up to
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     you. Is there something you would like to say?
               THE DEFENDANT: Yes. First I want to say -- [noise
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 8
     interruption.]
               THE COURT: You have to move away from the
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     microphone. If you've been fully vaccinated, you can pull down
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     your mask, Mr. Durbin.
               THE DEFENDANT: Yeah. First I want to apologize to
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    my family for the effect my decision-making made on them. And
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     I want to send a special thank you to my fiancée, Tracy Murray,
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     for her encouragement and, you know, and just keeping me
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     positive throughout all this. And I want to apologize to the
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     courts.
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               THE COURT: All right. I want to thank you very much
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     for that, Mr. Durbin.
               Applying the 3553(a) factors, the defendant accepted
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     responsibility for his conduct. He is 43 years old. He does
     have his GED. He doesn't have any dependents, but his
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     girlfriend has children who she is raising. Based upon the
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     presentence report, he had a normal childhood, no abuse or
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     neglect. He is married and divorced. In very poor -- I would
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say poor physical health, having suffered significant injuries as a result of altercations while incarcerated which included a stabbing, leaving him blind in one eye.

I note that he has had extensive contact with the criminal justice system and indeed received a more lenient sentence as a result of his last federal drug conviction.

Despite being released, he was not deterred from engaging in narcotics activity and indeed had another state court conviction for drug distribution. And then we, of course, we've got this large-scale conspiracy.

Without a doubt, Mr. Durbin is an experienced drug dealer and who, despite being incarcerated for significant periods of time, has not been deterred from engaging in this kind of criminal conduct. It's also a demonstration of a failure to appreciate the real damage that drug dealers do in our community and, quite frankly, not learning his lesson from it. And people are sick of it.

He was an organizer and a leader of a large-scale drug conspiracy. He knew what he was doing. In the wake of his behavior, he ruined the life of a person who didn't have any criminal record, namely his paramour or girlfriend.

Of course, it's very serious. Much of the violence and death that occurs in this country arises out of the illegal narcotic drug trade. In addition to that, it's noteworthy that despite testifying falsely that he was not engaged in cocaine

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distribution, he nevertheless admitted to being engaged in interstate or international automobile -- stolen automobile trafficking and readily admitted on the stand, despite admonishments from the Court about his right against self-incrimination, to still nevertheless engaging in drug distribution. I find it absolutely remarkable.

And I certainly understand the circumstances giving rise to his loss of an eye, and the lack of treatment or the slow treatment should not have happened. But nevertheless, the perpetrator of this event wasn't brought to justice because Mr. Durbin decided he wasn't going to snitch or cooperate against somebody who ended up stabbing him in his eye.

I do think that there's a need to protect the public. His prior criminal behavior is a clear demonstration that he is incapable as an adult of conforming himself to the laws of society. He did receive a reduced sentence of 10 years before. The advisory guideline range is between 324 and 405 months. There's a minimum mandatory as to each one of those counts, Counts 1 and 3. Supervised release range between -- as to Counts 1 and 3 of four to five years, a fine range between 40,000 and \$5 million, and a special assessment in the amount of \$100 for each count of conviction for a total of \$300.

I agree with the Government. The sentence that is sufficient, but not greater than necessary, to comply with the purposes set out in 3553(a)(2) is 240 months. I will tell you

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before I heard argument in this case, I was seriously considering going high into the guideline range, but I certainly understand some leniency should be put in place given the conditions of confinement that Mr. Durbin had to endure.

It will be 240 months for each count of conviction to run concurrently, five years of supervised release to run concurrently. I note that I would have reached this sentence regardless of how I fell on the guideline range based upon all of the factors that I mentioned, including the fact that this is the defendant's second federal criminal conviction and, I believe, fourth or fifth distribution conviction.

I'm not going to impose a fine because he doesn't have the ability to pay. Restitution is not applicable. There is a forfeiture order here, the \$82,300, the monies that were seized. Is there any objection to that?

MS. FLYNN: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Noted and granted. There will be a special assessment in the amount of \$300 that will be imposed.

I am going to recommend a Bureau of Prisons facility in Butner.

The sentence doesn't fall within the guideline range. In fact, it's well below the guideline range, but I think it's nonetheless appropriate in light of the Court's findings on the 3553(a) factors and purposes. There are no open counts to be dismissed.

Mr. Durbin, you've got 14 days to file an appeal of

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your conviction and sentence in this matter. The defendant
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     will remain detained. A Judgment and Commitment Order will be
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     prepared, a Statement of Reasons will be prepared, and these
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     records, along with the appropriate records of sentencing, will
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     be filed with the United States Sentencing Commission as well
     as the United States Bureau of Prisons.
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               Mr. Romano, is there anything else we can
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     productively handle before we conclude?
               MR. ROMANO: Your Honor, you may have discussed it
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     and I may have not heard it, but I think now don't we have to
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     go through all the conditions of supervised release?
               THE COURT: Right. Well, Mr. Durbin indicated
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     earlier, and I can confirm now, that he reviewed the
     presentence report. Is that correct, Mr. Durbin?
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               THE DEFENDANT:
                               Yes.
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               THE COURT: And you had the opportunity to read both
     the mandatory and standard conditions of supervised release?
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               THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
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               THE COURT: I also note that there's no objection to
     the special conditions of supervised release which I did not
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              In addition to the standard and mandatory conditions
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     mention.
     of supervised release, I am going to impose special conditions
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     which would include, of course, paying the special assessment,
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     to submit to substance abuse testing to determine if you've
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     used a prohibited substance, or not attempt to obstruct or
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tamper with testing methods.
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               You must participate in a substance abuse treatment
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     program and follow the rules and regulations of that program.
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     The probation officer will supervise your participation in the
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     program: provider, location, modality, duration, intensity, et
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     cetera.
               Ms. Flynn, I can recommend a residential drug
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     treatment program for him.
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               MS. FLYNN: Thank you, Your Honor.
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               THE COURT: Is there any other particular program he
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     would like to engage in, vocational training or something?
               MS. FLYNN: No, Your Honor.
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               THE COURT: All right. Is there anything else,
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    Ms. Flynn?
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               MS. FLYNN: No, Your Honor. I will be filing the
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     notice of appeal. I will not be in a position to handle that
     matter for him.
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               THE COURT: Right.
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               MS. FLYNN: So I've already indicated that he should
     either reach out to the public defender's office for the
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     appointment of an appellate attorney or seek other private
     counsel for purposes of the appeal.
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               THE COURT: That's right. Mr. Durbin, it's going to
    be really important. Ms. Flynn is moving on, and so she will
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     not be available to represent you during the course of the
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appeal.
              So it's going to be really important for you to reach
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     out to the public defender's office as soon as possible.
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     don't know whether or not Ms. Murray will do that or you can
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     coordinate --
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               MS. FLYNN: I'll facilitate it.
               THE COURT: Okay. Ms. Flynn is going to facilitate
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     the contact, so she can assist in getting you another federal
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     public defender for the purpose of appealing your conviction.
               THE DEFENDANT: So do I put something in writing?
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               THE COURT: She'll explain it to you. She's one of
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     our outstanding panel attorneys, and so she will be able to
     explain everything to you, and she will facilitate reaching out
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     to the public defender's office for the purpose of getting you
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     counsel. And, by the way, everything is being recorded here so
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     there's a record of what I am saying so that you can be assured
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     that you will have appellate counsel to take care of your
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     appeal. All right?
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               THE DEFENDANT: All right.
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               THE COURT: All right, thank you.
               MS. FLYNN: Thank you, Your Honor.
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               THE CLERK: All rise. This Court stands in recess.
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         (Proceedings concluded at 10:42 a.m.)
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CERTIFICATE OF OFFICIAL REPORTER 1 I, Patricia G. Mitchell, Registered Merit Reporter, 2 3 Certified Realtime Reporter, in and for the United States 4 District Court for the District of Maryland, do hereby certify, 5 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 753, that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the stenographically-reported proceedings 6 held in the above-entitled matter and the transcript page 7 8 format is in conformance with the regulations of the Judicial Conference of the United States. 9 10 Dated this 11th day of March 2023. 11 12 Patricia & Mitchell 13 Patricia G. Mitchell, RMR, CRR Federal Official Reporter 14 1.5 16 17 18 19 2.0 21 2.2 23 2.4 25

```
< Dates >
                              2 2:11, 6:21, 7:2, 8:3, 10:10,
                                                            < 5 > .
April 32:13.
                                 10:18, 15:1, 25:7.
April 11, 2022, 31:24.
                              20 24:24, 29:16, 30:4,
                                                            5 6:25.
December 7, 2022.
                                                            500 7:1, 8:25, 10:11, 12:9,
                                 30:12.
   4:20.
                              200 4:20.
                                                               14:12, 14:13, 15:10.
February 31:21.
                              2019 8:18, 10:13, 27:9,
June 31:8.
                                 27:15, 27:24.
                                                            <7>.
                              2020 8:22. 10:13. 10:14.
March 46:10.
March, 31:21.
                                 20:7, 30:25.
                                                            753 46:5.
May 20:7.
                                                            7A 1:23.
                              2023 46:10.
May 12 30:24.
                              21201 1:32, 1:42.
May 12, 2020 30:21.
                              217 1:40.
                                                            <9>.
May 15, 2021, 31:3.
                              24 11:8, 12:11, 13:10.
November 31:10.
                              240 29:16, 30:4, 41:25,
                                                            9 1:18, 2:2,
November 30, 2021.
                                 42:5.
                                                            911 35:20.
   30:21.
                              25 9:1.
                                                            [noise 39:7.
September, 4:3.
                              27 29:14.
$100 25:9, 41:22.
                              28 46:5.
                                                            < A >.
$300 25:9, 41:22,
                              2d1.1(a)(5 15:13.
   42:18.
                              2nd 1:41.
                                                            a.m. 1:18, 2:2, 45:22.
                                                            Aberdeen 17:9.
$5 25:8, 41:21.
$82 8:15, 13:14, 42:14.
                                                            ability 42:13.
                              < 3 >.
                                                            able 35:8, 36:16, 45:11.
                              3 2:11, 6:21, 7:2, 10:10,
                                                            above-entitled 46:7.
< 0 >.
                                 10:18, 25:7, 41:19,
                                                            Absolutely 22:14, 29:8,
000 6:25, 8:3, 25:8,
                                 41:20.
                                                               33:1.41:6.
                                                            abuse 39:24, 43:24,
   41:21.
                              30 1:18, 2:2, 6:23, 7:5, 7:14,
000-mile 15:1.
                                 10:8, 10:21, 15:13,
                                                               44:2.
                                 15:21.
                                                            accepted 8:10, 39:20.
                              300 8:15, 13:14, 42:14.
                                                            access 32:6.
<1>.
                              324 25:4, 41:17.
                                                            accident 22:16.
                              325 29:13, 29:24.
1 2:11, 6:21, 6:22, 7:1, 7:12,
                                                            accommodating 31:9.
   8:24, 10:18, 25:7, 41:19,
                              3553(a 5:13, 26:3, 28:10,
                                                            according 6:20.
   41:20.
                                 39:20, 42:23.
                                                            Accordingly 10:6.
                              3553(a)(2 41:25.
                                                            account 12:13, 12:20,
1.2 10:16.
10 41:16, 45:22.
                              36 1:31, 24:12, 25:3.
                                                               38:21.
100 33:19.
                              3661 9:12.
                                                            accountability 34:10.
11th 46:10.
                              3b1.1(a 16:4, 23:12.
                                                            accumulated 24:20.
12 24:20.
                              3C1.1 19:17, 19:19.
                                                            accurate 25:11, 25:16.
120 26:19, 29:18.
                              3D1.1 6:22.
                                                            accurately 11:9.
13 38:16.
                                                            Achilles 31:4, 31:13,
14 24:25, 35:16, 42:25.
                                                               32:6.
                              <4>.
                                                            acknowledgment 8:6.
140 26:19, 29:18.
                              40 7:18, 25:8, 41:21.
                                                            acquittal 9:4, 9:6.
15 38:13.
18 9:12, 26:3, 28:10.
                              400-some 29:24.
                                                            across 18:25.
180 38:14, 39:1.
                              405 25:4, 41:17.
                                                            Act 36:15.
1B1.4 9:17.
                              42 45:22.
                                                            activities 13:6, 19:5, 19:7,
                              43 39:21.
                                                               23:13, 24:5, 27:4, 29:5,
                              4th 1:31.
                                                               33:16.
<2>.
```

```
actual 17:16.
Actually 4:2, 14:19, 17:5,
   17:8, 17:15, 28:12.
addition 8:6, 13:4, 14:5,
   36:20, 40:24, 43:21.
additional 4:10, 26:21.
address 10:22, 17:2, 17:3,
   17:5, 17:14, 17:21,
   24:15, 34:14, 39:4.
addressed 6:10, 8:19,
   17:10, 24:14, 33:11,
   39:5.
addresses 10:23.
addressing 11:5.
adequate 26:8.
adequately 5:24.
administration 19:20.
admitted 41:1, 41:3.
admonishments 41:4.
adult 41:15.
advised 38:8.
advisory 26:1, 41:17.
advocacy 35:10,
   36:13.
advocate 35:5, 36:16.
affect 6:9.
affirmed 22:3, 22:4.
afford 26:8.
aggressive 35:9.
ago 9:2.
agree 33:19, 34:6,
  41:23.
agreement 12:17,
   12:21.
ahead 2:23, 15:21.
airline 7:22. 14:6.
airport 20:10.
allegation 18:19.
allegations 19:10.
alleged 13:6, 19:9,
   38:18.
allocation 39:3.
allowed 12:2, 13:2.
almost 17:8.
already 20:24, 22:18,
   27:23, 44:19.
altercations 40:2.
although 6:8, 34:7.
ambulance 31:25.
```

40:8.

activity 19:3, 23:1,

AMERICA 1:5. Among 24:22. amount 6:24, 8:15, 9:10, 10:4. 15:8. 29:1. 41:21. 42:18. amounts 16:12, 16:13, 28:5. ample 18:2. Anderson 8:10, 12:21, 13:17, 16:6, 17:17, 17:20, 17:23, 19:5, 20:9, 20:11, 20:12, 20:14, 21:17, 28:2. anticipated 18:8. apartment 17:9. apologize 39:12, 39:16. appeal 42:25, 44:16, 44:22, 45:1, 45:17. appealing 45:8. appeared 8:7. appears 15:22. appellate 44:21, 45:16. applicable 42:13. apply 14:24, 21:24, 23:8. Applying 24:12, 39:20. appointment 44:21. appointments 32:15. appreciate 35:14, 40:15. appropriate 6:11, 6:19, 9:16, 12:20, 13:4, 15:12, 26:2, 29:22, 30:4, 42:22, 43:4. appropriately 7:5. arching 10:19. arguing 12:12. argument 6:14, 12:6, 18:7, 18:10, 26:25, 42:1. arguments 5:18, 5:25, 6:5, 6:14. arises 40:23. Arizona 7:17, 13:17, 13:25, 14:1, 23:3. arrested 10:14, 20:21. assert 4:25. assessment 25:9, 41:21. 42:18, 43:23. assist 37:16, 45:7.

associated 5:13, 7:8. association 26:15. assured 45:15. attempt 43:25. attempted 19:20. Attorney 1:30, 3:9, 4:11, 44:21. attornevs 36:15, 45:11. audience 34:13. automobile 41:2. available 33:25, 44:25. aware 30:16, 33:20, 35:11, 37:6, 38:11. away 28:20, 39:9. < B >. bachelor 35:17. back 7:24, 8:5, 10:16, 13:15, 14:1, 14:2, 14:9, 14:13, 15:1, 16:20, 20:6, 20:11, 20:13, 21:1, 23:4, 23:5, 27:20, 27:22, 28:1, 32:8. back. 27:20. backed 34:3, 34:4. background 9:14. backtrack 37:5. Baltimore 1:16, 1:32, 1:42, 7:24. banged 22:19. bars 28:21. base 6:9, 6:23, 7:5, 7:12, 7:13, 10:7, 10:20, 11:8, 12:10, 13:9, 15:12, 15:21, 24:12, 24:24. Based 7:16, 13:7, 24:6. 39:23, 42:8. **Basically** 11:9, 11:21, 12:3, 13:6, 13:17, 34:3. basis 10:18, 21:19. became 33:25. behalf 35:10. behavior 28:20, 28:24, 40:20, 41:14. behind 21:15, 28:21. belabor 9:24. believe 3:16, 3:19, 4:3, 5:23, 6:7, 6:24, 11:8, 12:10, 13:3, 17:4, 30:3,

37:12, 42:11. believed 11:17. believes 16:22. below 42:21. bench 25:21. bench. 25:19. benefit 12:15. Berger 31:13, 32:5, 32:15. 32:17. best 33:1, 33:8. bled 35:21. blind 35:22, 40:3. boosted 6:16, 34:22. boot 31:17. border 18:25. **bound** 9:1. box 15:10. brains 21:15. brief 18:14. Briefly 3:10, 3:12, 13:13, 16:2. bring 14:9, 16:20, 17:9. bringing 20:10. brother-in-law 36:22. brought 20:6, 41:10. Bureau 29:2, 32:21, 33:2, 42:19, 43:6. business 21:10, 35:13. Butner 32:22, 32:23, 42:19. < C >. c)(5 15:13. **C.** 46:5. call 2:4, 21:4, 30:3. called 36:4. calling 20:25, 31:25, 35:20. calls 16:8, 19:8. capacities 17:6. captured 6:5. car 7:22, 7:24, 14:7, 19:3, 22:24, 23:2. card 8:1, 8:2, 15:16, 23:22. care 31:5, 31:7, 31:15, 35:8, 35:11, 45:16. career 28:3. Carolina 32:22.

cars 8:2, 23:4. cars. 21:18. case 2:4, 3:5, 5:25, 6:19, 9:3, 9:10, 9:11, 10:13, 10:14, 12:5, 13:23, 17:16, 19:11, 22:1, 22:3, 24:9, 26:11, 37:9, 38:22, 39:4. 42:1. cases 9:25. cash 15:17. category 24:21, 24:25, 25:1, 25:3. Catherine 1:38, 1:39, 2:15. caught 35:19. caused 35:22. CDF 31:4, 31:12. Center 21:1, 21:2. certain 12:5, 33:19. certainly 7:3, 15:24, 17:14, 23:19, 38:7, 41:7, 42:3. **CERTIFICATE** 46:1. Certified 46:3. certify 46:4. cetera 24:16, 44:6. challenge 12:18, 12:22, 12:23. changed 27:25. character 9:14. characterization 25:11, 25:16. charge 9:8, 23:19. charged 6:25, 10:10. Charles 1:31, 1:40. Che 2:7, 28:3. **CHE JARON DURBIN** 1:10. check 15:10. childhood 39:24. children 39:23. **chose** 11:12, 12:8, 37:16. Christopher 1:29, 2:8. **chronic** 33:10. Churchill 27:5. Circuit 10:1. circumstance 17:3. 33:21. circumstances 12:11, 13:3,

24:2, 26:4, 29:25, 34:7, 36:24, 38:22, 39:2, 41:7. cite 5:11. cited 9:3, 9:25, 22:1. clarify 3:25. clear 9:22, 16:18, 26:23, 41:14. Clearly 3:8, 8:4, 14:8, 16:14, 23:6, 23:17, 29:17. **CLERK** 45:21. client 3:18, 30:16, 34:13, 36:22, 37:2, 38:9. co-conspirator 12:14. 15:16. co-conspirators 19:9. co-defendant 7:15, 12:17, 16:7, 28:17, 29:12, 35:24, 37:24. collective 15:14. comes 20:11, 25:5, 26:24. coming 31:17. Commission 43:5. Commitment 43:2. committed 24:22. common 13:24, 15:1. community 37:1, 37:22, 40:16. company 8:19. completed 32:16. completely 33:22. complicated 38:12. comply 41:24. Computer-aided 1:49. concealed 14:15. concerned 22:10. 38:25. concerning 9:13, 9:21, 25:21. conclude 43:8. concluded 45:22. conclusion 13:1, 13:2. conclusions 12:18. concurrently 42:6, 42:7. condition 5:12, 5:13. 24:15. conditions 21:3, 26:20,

42:4, 43:11, 43:17, 43:20, 43:21, 43:22. conduct 9:8, 9:14, 9:21, 12:13, 27:2, 38:18, 39:21, 40:14. Conference 25:19, 25:21, 46:9. confinement 42:4. confines 4:23. confirm 4:9, 43:13. conformance 46:8. conforming 41:15. connection 10:17. connections 19:8. consider 9:16, 9:20, 11:8, 26:2, 26:4, 28:12, 29:16, 29:21, 30:11, 38:13, 39:1. consideration 30:1. considerations 28:10. considering 9:8, 42:2. Conspiracy 3:1, 6:22, 8:8, 8:11, 8:23, 10:4, 10:19, 14:18, 14:20, 15:4, 15:9, 15:18, 16:5, 16:14, 17:13, 18:22, 22:13, 23:18, 24:3, 24:11, 40:10, 40:19. constitutional 19:25, 20:1. consultation 4:12. contact 20:24, 40:4, 45:7. contacted 38:4. contacts 16:9. contend 21:22. contest 4:24, 5:4, 5:6. contested 5:18, 5:24, 6:21, 15:7, 15:22. context 35:4. continue 28:24. continued 27:17. continues 30:7. continuously 30:22. contracting 34:2. contradicted 22:6. **convict** 11:11. convicted 3:1, 9:15, 12:8, 27:14.

convicting 12:7.

conviction 15:9, 24:23, 25:10, 26:18, 27:8, 28:6, 37:25, 40:6, 40:9, 41:22, 42:5. 42:10. 42:11. 43:1. 45:8. convictions 24:23, 25:6, 26:17, 28:4, 28:23, 30:5. convinced 15:11. cooperate 41:11. cooperating 7:15, 12:14. cooperating. 25:22. cooperative 37:13. coordinate 45:4. coordinating 36:14. copy 3:20. Correct 3:20, 3:23, 4:7, 4:13, 5:2, 5:5, 5:8, 5:15, 5:19, 6:8, 24:17, 29:3, 32:11, 35:25, 37:7, 43:14, 46:6. corroborated 7:19. corroborating 37:24. cost 28:19, 28:20, 28:22, 30:9.38:14. **costing** 28:21. counsel 2:9, 44:22, 45:14, 45:16. Count 7:1, 7:12, 8:24, 10:18, 25:7, 25:9, 41:22, 42:5. country 40:23. Counts 2:11, 3:1, 6:21, 7:2, 10:10, 10:11, 10:18, 25:6, 38:23, 41:18, 41:19, 41:20, 42:23. County 7:17, 20:22, 21:1, 30:22. couple 4:15, 10:16. coupled 8:17, 14:10, 29:18. course 5:11, 17:21, 24:8, 40:9, 40:22, 43:23, 44:25. Courtroom 1:23, 2:20, 28:15, 36:20. courts 26:3. 34:3. 39:17. cousin 36:22.

COVID 30:18, 30:21, 33:21, 35:19. crack 16:10. credibility 14:3. credible 22:7, 22:9, 24:9, 26:25. credibly 23:21. credit 8:1, 8:2, 15:16. 23:22, 27:12, 30:24. crime 37:21. crimes 26:10. Criminal 1:9, 21:12, 23:1, 23:18, 24:20, 24:22, 24:23, 24:25, 25:3, 26:14, 27:2, 27:3, 36:15, 38:25, 40:5, 40:14, 40:21, 41:14, 42:10. cross-examine 21:15. CRR 46:16. cumulative 26:21. currency 8:15. < D >. damage 40:15. date 4:5, 30:23. Dated 4:20, 46:10. daughters 36:21. day 46:10. days 10:16, 42:25. deal 27:17, 30:7. dealer 27:1, 40:12. dealers 40:15. death 40:23. December 19, 2022 1:17. decided 28:23, 41:11. decision-making 39:13. dedication 36:13. defender 44:20, 45:2, 45:8, 45:13. defense 19:25. defies 14:3. definitely 33:3. degree 21:14, 21:16, 35:17. delay 31:14, 31:25, 32:6, 33:11. delays 32:19.

deliberation 12:3. delivery 17:4. demonstrated 23:19. demonstrates 15:15. demonstration 40:14, 41:14. denies 19:10, 19:11. departure 9:19. dependents 39:22. deserve 36:10, 36:11. designation 12:10. **Despite** 15:9, 40:7, 40:12, 40:25, 41:3. destination 17:4. detained 43:2. **Detention** 21:1, 21:2. deter 27:2, 27:8, 28:8, 29:20. determination 10:7. determine 7:4, 43:24. determining 9:18. deterred 28:6, 40:7, 40:13. deterrent 26:8. developed 31:20. diagnosed 30:18, 30:20. different 38:24. difficult 36:24. direct 34:19. directed 23:21. directly 22:6. dirty 21:12. disbelieved 24:7. discussed 43:9. dismissed 42:24. **Distribute** 3:2, 6:23, 12:9, 15:19. distributed 23:20. distributing 23:14, 24:10. **distribution** 6:25, 18:1, 23:13, 23:15, 24:4, 40:9, 41:1, 41:6, 42:11. **District** 1:1, 1:2, 46:4. **DIVISION** 1:3. divorced 39:25. doctor 32:6. document 4:23. documentation 19:1,

19:2. documents 23:23. doing 2:18, 21:17, 37:24, 40:19. doll 14:15. done 22:16, 22:23. doors 17:18, 34:18. double 29:17. 34:18. doubt 40:11. dovetail 18:8. down 11:22, 17:18, 29:18, 29:20, 33:22, 39:10. draw 27:14. drive 27:20. drives 20:12. driving 7:24, 14:2, 23:4, 23:5. drove 10:15, 14:1. drug 6:8, 9:5, 15:8, 21:10, 22:8, 22:14, 24:11, 26:24, 26:25, 28:4, 28:6, 28:23, 30:5, 40:6, 40:9, 40:11, 40:15, 40:19, 40:24, 41:5, 44:7. drugs 7:20, 10:12, 14:19, 17:16, 27:17, 27:20, 27:22, 27:25, 30:8. due 6:23, 13:19. Dunnigan 21:22. duration 44:5. during 44:25. < E > . earlier 43:13. **ECF** 4:20. echoed 9:17. effect 39:13. **effort** 5:14, 14:9, 14:21. efforts 35:13, 35:14, 36:14. either 44:20. elective 34:5. encouragement 39:15. end 24:11. ended 4:19, 31:23, 32:5, 41:12.

endure 42:4.

37:22.

enforcement 13:15,

engage 14:16, 28:24, 44:11. engaged 2:21, 2:22, 23:14, 24:4, 40:25, 41:1. engaging 40:7, 40:13, 41:5. enhancement 4:25, 7:10, 18:18. 18:19. 19:18. 19:23, 21:20, 22:3, 23:8. enhancements 19:13, 24:11. entire 14:20, 18:20, 26:11, 38:20. entitled 33:18. Esquire 1:29, 1:38. essence 27:9. establish 15:4. estimating 11:16. et 24:16, 44:5. event 41:10. everyday 34:5. everyone 2:3, 2:20, 33:21. everything 20:19, 21:13, 33:22, 36:16, 45:12, evidence 8:16, 9:9, 10:3, 11:13, 11:24, 12:4, 12:6, 14:12, 14:23, 14:24, 14:25, 15:12, 15:14, 18:2, 20:3, 20:4, 23:17, 23:19, 23:25, 24:3, 24:6, 24:9. exacerbated 31:6, 31:15. exactly 22:1. excess 8:11, 8:21. exhilarating 27:6. experienced 40:11. experts 32:4. explain 45:10, 45:12. explained 18:21. extensive 40:4. extremely 28:17. eye 28:21, 28:22, 28:25, 29:7, 31:24, 32:4, 32:8, 32:9, 35:20, 35:24, 37:17, 40:3, 41:8,

< F >. facilitate 17:14, 21:9, 45:5, 45:6, 45:12. facilities 32:25. facility 33:2, 33:9, 42:19. facing 27:13, 28:5. fact 11:10, 12:21, 16:23, 21:14, 22:17, 22:25, 24:2, 24:7, 29:11, 30:7, 30:9, 42:9, 42:21. factor 26:1. factors 5:12, 5:13, 26:3, 39:20, 42:9, 42:23. facts 12:19, 21:24. factually 38:3. failure 40:15. fairly 6:13. fake 17:17. fall 42:20. false 19:1, 22:10, 22:12, 23:25. falsely 5:1, 22:4, 23:7, 23:13, 24:9, 40:25. familiar 7:14, 26:11. family 20:17, 28:21, 34:13, 39:13. Fantastic 34:23. far 10:10, 38:25. fashioning 26:2, 38:22. father 36:22. Federal 24:23, 26:18, 27:8, 28:6, 30:6, 40:6, 42:10, 45:7, 46:17. feeling 27:6. feelings 21:10. fell 42:8. felony 26:17, 28:4, 30:5. festering 32:17. few 4:1, 4:14. fianc 39:14. fifth 28:5, 42:11. file 31:6, 31:8, 42:25. filed 6:15, 31:10, 43:5. filing 4:20, 44:15. financial 23:22. find 10:3, 12:4, 14:11,

41:12.

generalized 5:17. 15:21, 23:16, 41:6. finding 9:1, 9:5, 9:6, 14:25, generally 6:5. 25:15, 25:16. generated 3:5. **GEORGE LEVI RUSSELL.** findings 42:22. finds 23:25. III 1:22. Gerrick 16:7, 18:1. fine 23:2, 24:16, 25:8, 41:20, 42:12. gets 21:1. aettina 7:24, 18:24, 30:19. finish 34:12. 31:14, 32:1, 34:1, 34:5, First 6:18, 27:24, 30:18, 35:18, 39:7, 39:12. 45:7, 45:13. five 7:7, 7:13, 8:8, 8:11, girlfriend 35:15, 35:16, 8:22, 9:10, 10:4, 10:8, 39:23, 40:21. 10:20, 12:7, 15:5, 15:18, give 18:13. 16:14, 25:6, 25:8, 32:14, given 11:18, 12:21, 16:12, 41:20, 42:6. 27:13, 29:24, 30:4, flew 13:25, 14:1. 38:14, 42:3. giving 27:11, 41:7. flies 20:8. Floor 1:31, 1:41. gotten 10:15, 17:22, flying 7:23, 23:3. 36:10. folks 34:5. Government 4:17, 7:3, 7:11, 10:19, 11:10, **follow** 44:3. follow-up 31:10, 32:15. 11:12, 11:21, 12:12, 12:16, 13:14, 16:3, foregoing 46:5. forfeiture 42:14. 16:22, 18:8, 19:17, form 8:24. 19:24, 22:6, 24:1, 30:2, 33:15, 33:20, 34:8, format 46:8. 34:10, 37:3, 41:23. formed 8:20. gram 22:22. forms 10:18. forth 15:14, 23:4, 26:3. grams 6:25, 7:1, 8:25, 10:11, 12:9, 14:12, forward 18:17, 34:17. found 2:11, 22:7, 22:9. 14:13, 15:10. four 8:17, 13:18, 25:8, granted 42:17. 26:16, 28:4, 41:20. greater 29:23, 41:24. four-level 16:3, 16:25, Group 6:22. grouped 6:21. 18:3, 18:17. Fourth 10:1, 42:11. grouping 25:2. Frankly 18:7, 28:7, 29:10, auess 19:2. 29:12, 38:6, 40:16. guideline 9:19, 19:17, 25:3, frequency 16:13. 25:12, 25:17, 26:1, full 34:24. 29:24, 41:17, 42:2, 42:8, fully 2:21, 2:22, 6:16, 11:4, 42:20, 42:21. 34:20, 39:10. quidelines 5:8, 6:19, 9:17. guilt 22:11, 22:15. < G >. guilty 2:11, 8:7, 8:9, **G.** 46:2, 46:16. 25:20. gather 11:3. guy 17:7, 17:8. gave 34:7. **GED** 39:22. <H>>. general 34:5.

half 16:11, 29:14. hand 18:12. handle 6:18, 32:7, 43:8, 44:16. hands 28:17, 29:11. hanging 17:6. **happen** 21:9. happened 27:19, 36:3. 36:9, 37:3, 37:4, 38:21, 41:9. happening 31:23, 32:5. happens 29:1. happy 6:10, 11:1, 16:1, 25:24, 30:14, 35:2. hardly 23:1. Harford 7:17, 20:22, 21:1, 30:22. Haves 10:1. healer 36:14. health 5:12, 38:15, 40:1. healthcare 35:5, 35:9. hear 7:3, 7:9, 11:1, 13:5, 15:24, 16:1, 18:5, 19:14, 25:24, 28:14, 30:14, 34:11. 35:2. heard 7:15, 8:9, 18:20, 18:21, 42:1, 43:10. **HEARING** 1:21. held 46:7. helped 36:21. hereby 46:4. high 34:2, 42:2. higher 28:12. history 24:20, 24:21, 24:25, 25:3, 26:5, 26:14, 38:25. hit 27:7. home 10:15. Homes 8:21, 17:10. **HONORABLE** 1:22. hope 17:12. Hopefully 33:6. hospital 32:1. hotel 7:22. hour 35:21, 36:1. house 17:18, 18:25, 20:5, 22:23, 22:24, 27:10.

<1>. Ibanaga 10:1. identify 11:3, 11:17. identifying 11:12. ignore 11:10, 11:22, 12:3, 13:2. illegal 18:23, 19:3, 40:23. **impede** 19:20. **impeded** 19:20. import 15:19. important 28:9, 44:24, 45:1. impose 9:18, 27:1, 42:12, imposed 26:6, 29:15, 42:18. imposing 9:16. incapable 41:15. incarcerated 30:18, 30:22, 33:13, 34:8, 34:9, 40:2, 40:12. incarceration 26:22, 33:12, 38:15. include 4:24, 19:22, 25:21, 43:23. included 16:5, 38:17, 40:2. including 26:4, 42:9. increase 16:3, 16:25, 18:3, 18:9. incumbent 37:21. indicate 23:23. indicated 7:4, 7:25, 8:11, 8:24, 19:2, 19:9, 21:13, 24:16, 29:13, 32:18, 33:16, 43:12, 44:19. indicates 31:24. indication 24:1. Indictment 2:11. individual 7:10, 26:13, 28:18. individuals 16:16. industry 35:9. infected 36:6. infection 31:20, 31:21. 32:17. inform 38:10.

hypertension 30:20.

35:19.

```
information 9:13, 9:21,
                                                                                                29:7, 29:9, 35:20.
                                  19:5, 20:9, 20:10, 20:12,
                                                              large-scale 40:10,
   37:5.
                                  20:13, 21:17, 28:2.
                                                                 40:18.
                                                                                             lot 36:25.
Initially 26:18, 27:7, 29:13,
                               Jackson 1:45, 16:7, 16:8,
                                                              last 7:21, 29:17, 40:6.
                                                                                             loved 21:4.
   35:23.
                                  16:9. 18:1.
                                                              later 10:16, 26:19.
                                                                                             lucky 35:4.
                                                              Law 1:39, 9:22, 9:23, 13:15,
injuries 33:14, 33:17,
                               iail 31:9, 37:3.
                               Jameka 7:16, 8:22, 10:14,
                                                                 26:7, 28:9, 37:22.
   40:1.
                                                                                             < M >.
injury 28:16, 29:11, 31:5,
                                  16:6, 16:19, 19:5, 20:5,
                                                              laws 41:15.
   31:11. 32:13. 38:11.
                                  20:14, 22:22, 23:3,
                                                              leader 15:23, 16:4, 16:19,
                                                                                             M-u-r-r-a-v 34:25.
                                  26:13. 27:19.
                                                                                             Maguire 17:19.
inmates 34:4.
                                                                 16:23, 40:18.
                               Jaron 2:7.
                                                              learn 28:23.
                                                                                             mail 27:21, 27:22.
innocence 22:11,
   22:15.
                               Jerry 17:19.
                                                              learning 40:16.
                                                                                             mailed 17:15, 17:19,
Inspection 8:15, 17:22.
                               Jessica 1:45.
                                                              least 7:7, 7:12, 8:16, 8:22,
                                                                                                27:18.
Inspector 1:46, 2:9,
                               job 20:16.
                                                                 8:25, 10:8, 15:4, 15:18,
                                                                                             mailing 13:16.
   8:14.
                               Judgment 43:2.
                                                                 29:6, 29:16, 30:11.
                                                                                             majority 8:20.
                               Judicial 46:8.
                                                                                             mandatory 25:5, 41:18,
intensity 44:5.
                                                              leave 20:11.
Intent 3:2, 6:22, 12:9,
                                                              leaving 40:3.
                                                                                                43:17, 43:21.
                               jumping 18:17.
                               jury 3:3, 4:6, 8:24, 9:1, 9:4,
                                                              left 2:16.
                                                                                             manipulated 23:18.
   15:19.
                                  9:5, 11:9, 11:11, 11:22,
intentionally 17:13,
                                                              leq 36:3, 36:6.
                                                                                             manufacture 15:19.
                                  11:25, 12:3, 12:4, 12:7,
                                                              lengths 17:24.
                                                                                             marijuana 18:23, 19:10,
   23:6.
                                  12:24, 13:1, 13:3, 13:20,
                                                              leniency 42:3.
                                                                                                20:4, 20:5, 22:22, 23:14,
intercepted 17:22.
                                  13:24, 14:13, 14:17,
                                                              lenient 40:5.
                                                                                                24:2.
interferes 21:23.
                                  15:10, 22:7, 22:8,
international 41:2.
                                                              lenity 30:3.
                                                                                             marijuana. 20:3, 22:20.
                                                              less 22:21.
                                                                                             married 21:6, 21:8,
interruption.] 39:8.
                                  24:7.
interstate 41:2.
                               Justice 4:25, 5:1, 18:9,
                                                              lesson 40:16.
                                                                                                39:25.
intervention 33:5.
                                  18:20, 19:21, 22:3,
                                                              letters 36:4.
                                                                                             marry 38:8.
                                  23:12, 36:15, 40:5,
   33:7.
                                                              level 6:9, 6:23, 7:5, 7:12,
                                                                                             Marshal 33:20.
                                                                                             Maryland 1:2, 1:16, 7:17,
                                  41:10.
                                                                 7:13, 10:7, 10:8, 10:21,
introduced 19:6.
investigated 37:10.
                                                                 11:8, 12:10, 13:10,
                                                                                                14:10, 28:1, 32:3,
investigation 19:21,
                                                                 15:12, 15:13, 15:21,
                                                                                                46:4.
                               < K >.
                                                                 24:12, 25:2.
                                                                                             mask 2:24, 6:16, 11:5,
   37:16.
                               keeping 39:15.
involved 6:24, 8:8, 8:23,
                                                              levels 18:1.
                                                                                                34:20, 39:11.
   9:8, 10:4, 14:20, 15:8,
                               kicked 20:18.
                                                              life 28:25, 29:9, 40:20.
                                                                                             masked 2:20.
   15:17, 17:3, 18:22,
                               kilo 7:21.
                                                              light 42:22.
                                                                                             masking 2:19.
   18:23, 19:4, 19:7, 21:11,
                               kilogram 8:18, 8:21, 10:13,
                                                              likewise 8:10.
                                                                                             master 21:14, 21:16.
   22:5, 22:12, 22:18, 23:1,
                                  14:13, 14:14.
                                                              limitation 9:13, 9:20.
                                                                                             material 22:11, 22:15,
   23:2, 24:10, 26:12,
                               kilograms 7:7, 7:13, 7:18,
                                                              limited 16:5.
                                                                                                23:7.
                                                                                             matter 2:7, 21:11, 22:11,
   26:13.
                                  8:8, 8:12, 8:17, 8:23,
                                                              link 13:5.
involved. 11:19.
                                  9:10, 10:5, 10:8, 10:16,
                                                              lives 30:8, 30:9.
                                                                                                43:1, 44:17, 46:7.
involvement 26:14.
                                  10:20, 12:8, 15:5,
                                                              LLC 8:21.
                                                                                             matters 23:7.
issue 6:8, 15:7, 15:22,
                                  15:18.
                                                              location 23:20, 44:5.
                                                                                             MD 1:32, 1:42.
   36:3, 37:12.
                                                              locked 20:25, 30:21,
                                                                                             mean 33:17, 36:9.
                               kilos 13:18.
issues 4:24, 5:7, 5:8, 5:18,
                               kind 20:22, 27:13, 38:7,
                                                                                             medical 30:16, 30:17, 31:5,
                                                                 33:17.
   5:24, 6:24, 10:23, 20:23,
                                                              long 9:8, 37:25.
                                                                                                31:7, 31:15, 32:3, 32:25,
                                  40:14.
   30:16, 35:5.
                               knows 28:13, 30:8,
                                                              look 13:23, 14:23, 20:6,
                                                                                                33:2, 33:18, 34:4, 35:10,
                                  37:15.
                                                                 28:8.
                                                                                                35:18, 36:2.
                                                              looked 27:16.
                                                                                             meeting 20:9.
< J >.
                                                              Looking 22:19, 24:19.
                                                                                             meets 20:12.
J. 1:29.
                               < L >.
                                                              lose 36:6.
                                                                                             member 34:13.
                               lack 31:5, 41:8.
Jack 8:10, 13:17, 16:6,
                                                              loss 41:8.
                                                                                             members 16:5, 28:14.
   17:17, 17:20, 17:23,
```

lost 20:19, 21:13, 28:25,

memo 6:10, 9:3, 9:25.

large 7:19.

memoranda 4:17, 4:19, 5:22, 6:4, 15:25. memorandum 22:2. 28:11. mention 43:21. mentioned 26:12, 42:9. Merit 46:2. methods 44:1. Michael 1:46, 2:9. microphone 3:8, 39:10. miles 8:3. million 25:9, 41:21. minimum 25:5, 27:3, 41:18. minute 20:23. missed 27:7. 27:9. missing 28:22. mistake 22:17. mistaken 38:17. misunderstandings 4:15. Mitchell 46:2, 46:16. MO. 27:25. modality 44:5. Mom 17:9, 20:5, 22:22. Money 11:19, 13:16, 14:10, 17:4, 17:15, 17:19, 22:13, 27:21, 27:22, 28:1. monies 42:14. months 24:25, 25:4, 26:19, 29:13, 29:16, 29:24, 30:4, 31:22, 32:17, 38:14, 39:1, 41:17, 41:25, 42:5. morning 2:4, 2:6, 2:13, 2:15, 2:17, 2:18. mother 8:19, 17:2, 17:3, 17:5, 17:10, 17:13, 27:10. motion 31:8, 31:10. **motions** 31:6. move 7:9, 39:9. moved 4:5. moving 44:24. **MR. ROMANO** 6:13. MRI 31:8. **MS. MURRAY** 34:21, 34:25, 35:15, 36:18.

MTC 32:1. multiple 7:16, 13:25, 14:6, 15:2, 15:3, 16:9, 30:5. Murray 34:21, 34:25, 35:1, 35:5, 35:7, 35:12, 36:20, 39:14, 45:3. < N >. name 17:16, 17:17, 17:20, 34:24. namely 22:11, 23:11, 23:14, 40:21. narcotic 40:24. narcotics 6:24, 15:8, 23:13, 23:20.40:8. nature 26:4. necessarily 34:8. necessary 29:23, 33:6, 33:7, 41:24. need 3:14, 4:10, 14:21, 21:8, 26:5, 41:13. needed 32:7, 35:21, 36:5. needs 27:1, 29:15, 29:21, 29:25. neglect 39:25. nevertheless 34:9, 41:1, 41:5, 41:9. next 15:22. No. 1:9, 4:20, 22:25. none 36:11. nonetheless 42:22. normal 39:24. North 1:40, 32:22. NORTHERN 1:3. note 4:24, 40:4, 42:7, 43:19. Noted 42:17. notes 1:49. noteworthy 40:24. notice 44:16. noting 25:14. notwithstanding 17:21. number 5:11, 11:20. numeral 25:1. nurse 35:16.

< 0 >. oath 22:4. object 15:4, 18:16, 18:17, 19:13, 24:15. objection 30:24, 42:15, 43:19. objections 23:10, 24:14. 25:15. objective 11:24. objectively 37:20. obstruct 5:1, 19:20, 43:25. obstructed 19:19. 23:12. **obstruction** 4:25, 18:9, 18:19, 19:18, 19:23, 21:20, 22:3, 23:8. obtain 14:9, 16:20, 17:25. obtains 20:12. obviously 10:11, 13:4, 18:20, 22:8, 38:24. occurs 37:21, 40:23. off. 27:23. offender 28:4. offense 6:9, 6:23, 7:5, 7:12, 7:13, 9:15, 10:7, 10:8, 10:20, 11:8, 12:10, 13:9, 15:12, 15:13, 15:21, 18:3, 18:18, 24:12, 24:22, 25:2, 26:5, 26:7. Office 1:30, 1:39, 44:20, 45:2, 45:13. Officer 1:45, 44:4. officers 13:15. Official 46:1, 46:17. Okay 5:7, 6:12, 14:18, 19:12, 21:18, 36:23, 45:6. old 39:21. Once 10:23, 17:25, 22:19. One 8:3, 8:17, 10:13, 10:23, 14:13, 14:14, 14:15, 15:2, 17:6, 20:11, 21:16, 26:1, 26:17, 34:12, 36:15, 37:1, 38:9, 38:10, 40:3, 41:18, 45:10.

ongoing 14:8, 19:7, 33:5. open 42:23. operating 29:10. opinion 37:8. opportunity 3:4, 3:9, 3:17, 11:11, 12:18, 12:22, 12:23. 13:5. 18:14. 43:16. **option** 12:7. Order 5:14, 10:3, 36:4, 42:14, 43:2. ordering 16:9. organization 5:5. organizer 15:23, 16:4, 16:18, 16:23, 40:18. organizer/leader 5:5, 23:11, 23:17, 23:23, 24:8. originally 4:2. others 18:2, 23:18. Otherwise 6:13, 9:21. ounce 14:2, 22:21. ounces 14:2. outfit 21:15. outlines 15:25. outside 17:7, 32:4. outstanding 36:15, 45:11. overall 10:19. own 13:24, 23:24. < P >. package 17:1, 17:8, 22:23, 27:9, 27:15, 27:24. page 46:7. pandemic 34:6. panel 36:15, 45:11. paramour 40:21. parcel 16:14. part 5:19, 7:19, 16:14, 17:13, 34:11, 38:17. participate 44:2. participation 44:4. particular 10:23, 12:5, 15:20, 24:3, 44:10. path 11:22. Patricia 46:2, 46:16. pay 8:16, 42:13.

paying 43:23. Pecukaitis 1:46, 2:10. Pending 15:7, 23:9. **people** 16:15, 19:7, 30:8, 30:9, 33:25, 40:17. percent 33:19. Perez 22:2, 22:9. **perform** 32:10. perhaps 28:14, 28:15. periods 40:13. **perjury** 21:23. permanently 30:19. perpetrator 38:18, 41:10. person 9:14, 37:17, 40:20. personal 16:12, 16:17, 29:25. **phone** 19:8. physical 5:12, 30:1, 40:1. picked 11:18, 27:23. picking 20:10. place 20:16, 33:8, 42:3. placed 9:13, 29:6. **Plaintiff** 1:7. 1:27. plan 27:19. plea 8:9, 12:16, 12:21, 25:20. plead 12:19. please 2:5, 3:7, 34:23. **pled** 8:7. podium 34:19. point 9:24, 12:24, 22:1, 27:21, 33:6, 33:24, 34:6, 36:6, 36:20. pointed 9:2, 24:1, 24:10. points 4:15, 24:21, 25:1. policies 2:19. policy 25:20. poor 39:25, 40:1. position 7:11, 10:19, 13:9, 29:6, 37:4, 44:16. positive 39:16. Possess 3:2, 15:19. possession 6:22, 12:8. possible 45:2. post 20:18.

Postal 1:46, 2:9, 8:14, 17:7, 17:8, 17:22. prepared 43:3. preponderance 9:9, 10:3. 12:4, 14:11, 14:24, 15:11, 23:16, 23:25. Present 1:45, 2:9, 24:22, 38:19. presented 11:13. presentence 3:5, 4:10, 4:12, 6:20, 23:10, 24:17, 39:24, 43:14. presided 7:14. pretrial 21:2. pretty 26:23. prevent 9:7. previous 24:23, 28:23. previously 27:14. primary 5:7. principle 10:2. **prior** 21:12, 26:14, 26:16, 28:4, 30:5, 30:19, 41:14. Prisons 29:2, 32:21, 33:2, 42:19, 43:6. private 44:21. pro 4:19, 6:14. probably 31:20, 33:1, 36:8. **Probation** 1:45, 24:21, 30:6, 44:4. problem 27:21, 31:6, 31:15, 33:10, 36:18. problems 30:17, 33:10. proceeding 25:21. Proceedings 1:20, 45:22, 46:6. proceeds 22:14. process 38:7. produced 8:2. productively 43:8. program 44:3, 44:5, 44:8, 44:10. prohibited 9:22, 9:23, 43:25. promote 26:7, 28:9. proof 10:2. proper 12:10, 13:9, 31:5, 31:7, 31:15, 32:3, 35:8, 35:10, 36:5.

properly 37:9. prosecuted 27:11. prosecution 19:21, 37:10, 37:16. protect 26:9, 27:3, 28:8, 41:13. provide 26:7. provided 34:4. provider 44:5. provides 19:19. public 26:10, 27:3, 28:9, 41:13, 44:20, 45:2, 45:8, 45:13. pull 39:10. punishment 26:8. pure 12:6. purpose 45:8, 45:13. purposes 2:25, 9:16, 11:5, 37:10, 41:25, 42:23, 44:22. Pursuant 2:19, 6:21, 15:13, 16:3, 23:11, 46:5. put 15:14, 42:3, 45:9. puts 25:2. < Q >quantities 7:4, 16:10. quantity 6:9, 7:20, 9:5, 11:12, 11:14, 11:16, 11:25, 12:5, 15:20, 22:8. question 24:6, 28:16. quickly 38:8. Quite 4:1, 28:7, 29:9, 29:12, 40:16. auote 27:5. <R>. raided 18:25. raise 24:12, 36:21. raising 39:23. ran 17:8. range 9:19, 25:3, 25:7, 25:8, 25:12, 25:17, 26:1, 29:24, 41:17, 41:19, 41:20, 42:2, 42:8, 42:20, 42:21. rate 13:18.

reach 44:20, 45:1. reached 11:20, 13:1, 42:7. reaching 45:12. read 43:16. readily 41:3. real 17:20, 26:25, 40:15. really 21:10, 21:25, 44:24, 45:1. Realtime 46:3. reason 20:20. Reasons 16:24, 21:8, 23:7, 30:10, 43:3. recall 7:21, 8:13, 17:6. 20:21. recalls 10:12. receipts 15:16. receive 4:18, 9:15, 41:16. received 4:15, 4:17, 12:15, 13:7, 24:24, 26:19, 35:18, 38:16, 40:5. recess 45:21. recidivist 26:25, 28:20. recollection 37:1. recommend 28:13, 29:13, 32:21, 42:19, 44:7. recommendation 29:12. recommended 31:9. record 6:15, 11:4, 20:14, 21:12, 34:24, 40:21, 45:15. recorded 45:14. records 7:22, 7:23, 8:3, 14:6, 14:7, 15:3, 15:16, 23:22, 43:4. recovered 22:22. reduced 5:14, 24:24, 26:19, 41:16. reduction 13:8, 29:18, 30:2. references 16:11. referring 4:21. reflect 26:6. reflected 10:20. reflecting 10:8. reflects 11:9, 26:16, 29:21.

regard 6:8, 7:3, 7:12, 14:25, 29:3. regarding 4:12, 5:8, 5:25, 11:13, 15:8, 24:2, 25:24. regardless 22:7, 28:25, 42:8. Registered 35:16. 46:2. regulations 44:3, 46:8. reiterate 35:17. related 5:12, 5:24, 33:21. release 24:16, 25:7, 26:20, 29:20, 30:6, 41:19, 42:6, 43:11, 43:17, 43:20, 43:22. released 20:24, 32:2, 40:7. reliable 12:25. relied 9:11. rely 12:16, 13:24. relying 18:10. remain 2:20, 39:5, 43:2. remains 26:24. remarkable 41:6. remember 17:16. remembers 31:16. reminded 27:5. remove 2:23, 6:15, 34:20. rendered 12:1. rent 8:2. rental 7:22, 7:24, 8:2, 14:7. repeated 26:20, 30:5. reply 13:11, 18:14. report 3:5, 3:9, 3:15, 3:18, 4:10, 4:13, 6:20, 23:10, 24:17, 26:16, 39:24, 43:14. Reporter 46:1, 46:2, 46:3, 46:17. represent 2:16, 44:25. Representing 2:8. request 18:8, 33:4. requested 16:13. requesting 16:3.

requests 23:10.

resale 16:12, 16:18. residence 8:19. residential 44:7. resold 16:21, 23:5. respect 13:19, 19:21, 26:7, 28:9. respectfully 30:11. responsibility 8:10, 34:10. 39:21. responsible 11:17, 11:23. Restitution 42:13. result 2:23, 12:15, 13:8, 15:15, 15:20, 21:20, 24:11, 24:25, 30:20, 31:20, 38:15, 40:2, 40:6. resulted 26:21. resupplier 16:24. returned 10:15, 13:20. review 3:18, 4:10, 4:11. reviewed 5:21, 5:22, 6:4, 43:13. ring 23:2. rise 34:7, 41:8, 45:21. risk 34:2. **RMR** 46:16. role 2:21, 2:23, 8:11, 18:3, 18:18, 38:21. Roman 25:1. roughly 10:16. ruined 28:24, 30:8, 40:20. rule 18:14. rules 38:6, 44:3. run 42:6. < S >. **S.** 1:31. sale 18:23, 19:3. sat 35:21, 36:1. satisfied 4:11, 9:9. saw 14:13, 14:14. saying 45:15. says 9:18, 20:13. scale 16:11. scenario 20:6.

schedule 32:8, 32:9.

scheduled 4:2.

scheme 21:5. scrambling 37:5. se 4:19. 6:14. searches 22:23. seat 2:3, 32:9. seated 2:16. second 28:6, 42:10. section 9:12. 19:18. secure 37:22. secured 37:8, 37:11. securing 37:25. seek 44:21. seeking 5:18, 19:17, 30:2. seized 7:20, 8:15, 8:18, 8:21, 10:12, 10:17, 13:16, 14:19, 15:17, 20:4, 27:10, 27:16, 27:24, 42:15. seizure 24:1. seizures 15:15. self-incrimination 41:5. self-represented 4:18. selling 18:22, 19:9, 21:18, 22:20. send 27:19, 39:14. sending 22:13. sense 13:25, 15:1, 28:3. **Sent** 3:19, 4:1, 16:19, 17:1, 17:17, 27:10, 32:21, 36:3. sentence 5:14, 6:1, 9:16, 9:18, 24:24, 25:5, 26:2, 26:6, 27:1, 27:13, 28:5, 28:12, 29:15, 29:16, 29:22, 30:3, 30:4, 30:11, 38:13, 38:22, 39:1, 40:6, 41:16, 41:23, 42:7, 42:20, 43:1. **Sentencing** 1:21, 2:10, 2:25, 4:2, 4:17, 4:19, 5:8, 5:19, 5:22, 6:4, 6:10, 9:3, 9:7, 9:17, 9:25, 13:8, 15:25, 19:17,

19:22, 20:23, 21:23,

22:2, 25:12, 25:21,

25:24, 28:11, 38:20,

43:4, 43:5.

September 32:11, 32:14. series 7:23. serious 28:16, 29:11. 40:22. seriously 42:1. seriousness 26:6. Service 8:15, 17:22. 33:21. services 34:4, 34:5. set 41:25. sets 26:3. several 4:1, 4:6, 4:24. shall 2:20, 9:13. She'll 45:10. shocking 23:1. short 27:15. **shot** 27:6, 27:7, 27:9. shouldn't 21:24. **show** 14:8, 15:3, 17:7, 17:19, 17:24. **showed** 7:23, 8:3, 8:16, 16:8. shown 26:23. sick 40:17. significant 12:15, 13:7, 14:8, 14:9, 29:1, 30:17, 38:14, 40:1, 40:12. significantly 26:9. silent 39:5. single 22:21. sir 2:17, 4:13, 5:2, 5:9, 5:15, 5:19, 31:1, 32:11. sit 3:7. slow 29:20, 41:9. snitch 41:11. society 41:16. sold 18:25. **solely** 13:7. somebody 31:11, 33:13, 41:12. soon 45:2. sorry 3:11, 36:23. sort 6:4. sorts 19:1. source 8:9, 22:14. Southwest 18:24. speaking 2:21, 2:22, 31:13, 34:20, 38:3.

special 25:9, 39:14, 41:21, 42:18, 43:20, 43:22, 43:23. specific 11:25. specificity 11:19. speculate 12:25, 13:22, 14:12, 14:21, 14:22. speculated 11:16. speculating 13:20. speculation 11:22, 12:6, 13:19, 14:17. speculative 11:14. spell 34:24. spending 29:1. spite 12:4. **spoke** 3:12. spoken 4:1. stabbed 31:23, 31:24, 35:23, 37:2, 37:15. stabbing 40:3, 41:12. stand 20:2, 22:17, 27:12, 41:3. standard 10:2, 43:17, 43:21. standpoint 30:1. stands 45:21. **start** 6:18, 10:22, 11:14, 35:3. **started** 35:23. **starts** 20:11. state 30:6, 34:23, 40:8. stated 21:22. Statement 12:19, 43:3. **States** 1:1, 1:5, 1:30, 2:7, 2:8, 9:2, 9:12, 10:1, 21:21, 22:2, 43:5, 43:6, 46:3, 46:9. statutory 9:12. stenographically-reported 46:6. stenotype 1:49. stockholder 8:20. stolen 21:18, 22:24, 23:2, 23:4, 23:15, 41:2. stop 7:21, 27:24, 28:2. stored 37:11. Street 1:31, 1:40, 29:10. strength 36:13. submit 43:24.

subpar 33:18. subsequent 15:9. Subsequently 35:19, 35:22. 36:5. substance 43:24, 43:25, 44:2. substantial 29:14. suffered 31:4, 31:21. 40:1. suffers 30:19. sufficient 8:16, 29:22, 41:24. **sum** 5:17. summarized 5:24. 6:14. **summary** 16:22. supervise 44:4. Supervised 24:16, 25:7, 26:20, 29:20, 30:6, 41:19, 42:6, 43:11, 43:17, 43:20, 43:22. supplement 4:19. supplemental 5:22. **supply** 8:10, 22:14. supplying 16:17. support 18:3, 20:17, 36:25. supports 12:6, 24:4. **Supreme** 9:2, 9:7, 9:11, 9:22, 21:21. **surgeon** 31:13. surgeons 32:9, 32:10. surgery 32:8, 32:10, 32:14, 32:18, 36:7. surprised 38:3. surprising 23:2. surveillance 20:9. **suspect** 11:25. sustain 28:16, 29:11. **system** 40:5. $\langle T \rangle$. T-r-a-c-y 34:25. table 2:9. tamper 44:1.

tangible 11:24.

telephone 36:1.

tempers 29:12.

tendon 31:4, 31:14,

32:6. term 24:15. terms 14:3, 22:8. Terrell 16:6. 18:1. test-i-lie 20:1. test-i-lie. 21:25. testified 7:16, 12:14, 19:4, 22:4. 23:6. 23:21. 24:9. testify 11:19, 12:17, 19:25, 21:24. testifying 5:1, 23:13, 37:23, 40:25. testimony 7:15, 7:19, 7:25, 8:6, 8:13, 11:15, 12:15, 12:24, 13:7, 13:14, 14:5, 15:16, 18:10, 18:21, 19:11, 21:19, 21:25, 22:5, 22:9, 22:10, 22:12, 23:24, 27:12. testing 43:24, 44:1. **Thompson** 7:16, 8:22, 10:14, 11:14, 12:24, 13:6, 14:1, 16:6, 16:19, 19:5, 20:6, 20:14, 22:22, 23:4, 23:21, 26:13, 28:25, 38:8. **Thompson**. 20:14. though 34:1. three 3:1, 3:22, 25:6, 26:21, 29:18, 30:17, 36:21. threw 33:21. throughout 39:16. Title 9:12, 26:3, 28:10. titles 19:1, 22:24. today 4:5. took 20:2, 37:17. top 17:1, 29:19. tore 31:3. torture 32:3. total 5:17, 14:24, 24:20, 26:21, 41:22. totality 13:23. touch 20:23. touched 26:17. towards 20:22. Tracy 34:16, 34:21, 34:25, 39:14. trade 40:24.

trafficking 20:2, 20:3, 22:5,

26:24, 41:3. training 44:11. **TRANSCRIPT** 1:20, 46:6, 46:7. transcription 1:49. transferred 33:9. transport 8:5. transportation 15:15. 23:15. transported 7:18. transporting 7:25. treated 31:12. treatment 31:10, 31:14, 32:4, 33:5, 33:18, 34:9, 35:18, 36:2, 36:5, 36:10, 41:8, 41:9, 44:2, 44:8. trial 2:12, 3:3, 5:2, 7:15, 15:14, 16:7, 18:20, 31:17. trip 11:18. trips 7:16, 7:23, 8:4, 14:6, 15:1, 15:3. TRU 8:20, 17:10. true 46:5. try 17:25, 37:5. trying 21:3, 21:14, 32:3, 38:8. Tucson 7:17, 7:24, 10:15, 16:19, 27:19. **Two** 3:22, 5:7, 14:2, 15:3, 17:6, 17:17, 18:12, 23:10, 28:9, 30:16, 31:6, 32:10. two-level 4:25, 18:9, 18:19, 19:18, 19:22. type 6:24, 14:16, 15:8. < U >. **U.S.** 1:46, 2:9, 8:14, 10:1. Ultimately 31:23. 32:20. unaware 38:4. underlying 14:20. understand 12:2, 13:2, 14:18, 33:15, 36:12, 37:14, 37:18, 38:1, 38:23, 41:7, 42:3.

```
understanding 25:14,
   31:12, 31:19, 32:24,
   38:16, 38:17, 38:19.
understands 19:24.
   29:5.
Understood 18:11.
   38:2.
undeterred 26:24.
unfortunate 26:15.
unfortunately 38:10.
United 1:1, 1:5, 1:30, 2:7,
   2:8, 9:2, 10:1, 21:21,
   22:2, 43:5, 43:6, 46:3,
   46:9.
University 32:2.
unless 2:20, 9:21.
until 20:15, 26:14, 32:14,
   32:16.
untruthful 19:11.
upside 33:22.
upwards 7:18.
using 17:15, 17:20.
utilizing 14:24.
< V >
v. 9:2, 10:1, 21:21,
   22:2.
vaccinated 2:21, 2:22,
   6:16, 11:4, 30:19, 34:2,
   34:20, 39:10.
vaccine 33:25.
vaxxed 34:21.
vehicle 19:1, 20:11.
vehicles 18:24, 23:15.
verdict 8:24, 9:4, 11:9,
   11:22, 12:1, 12:3, 12:5,
   13:20, 15:10.
verdicts 38:23.
versus 2:7.
VI 25:1, 25:3.
video 37:7, 37:11, 37:21,
   37:22.
view 3:4.
violation 21:2, 29:19.
violations 26:20, 26:22,
   30:5.
violence 40:22.
violent 28:17.
virus 34:3.
```

```
visits 3:22, 4:6.
vocational 44:11.
vs 1:8.
< W >.
waiting 17:7, 36:1.
wake 40:19.
Walton 16:6, 18:1, 37:2,
   37:8, 38:16, 38:21,
   38:24.
wanted 3:25, 28:24.
warranted 9:19, 16:25.
warrants 30:2.
Watts 9:3, 9:11.
weather 8:4.
welcome 36:18.
whatever 22:25, 30:3, 33:6,
Whether 7:4, 9:19, 15:22,
   17:2, 21:10, 25:22,
   45:3.
whole 21:5, 24:7.
will 7:21, 8:13, 15:20,
   16:24, 17:6, 24:11,
   24:12, 28:7, 28:13, 33:6,
   41:25, 42:5, 42:17,
   42:18, 43:2, 43:3, 43:4,
   44:4, 44:15, 44:16,
   44:24, 45:3, 45:11,
   45:12, 45:16.
willfully 19:19, 22:16,
   23:6.
Winston 27:5.
wiretap 16:8.
within 4:23, 9:19, 23:18,
   25:1. 42:20.
Without 40:11.
witness 12:25, 22:7,
   27:12.
witnesses 13:15.
woman 21:11.
word 28:3.
words 24:15.
work 21:12.
world 27:6.
worse 33:12.
writing 45:9.
```

```
< Y >.
yanked 21:1.
years 9:2, 25:6, 25:8,
   26:22, 29:14, 29:16,
   29:19, 30:4, 30:12,
   35:16, 38:14, 38:16,
   39:21, 41:16, 41:20,
   42:6.
```